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ABSTRACT

The teaching mini-units in this teacher's guide are designed for use with elementary level students. Thematic study units are given for each of the following countries or continents: Africa, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and the United States. Experimental activities encourage children to learn about different holiday customs, cultural traditions, art, music, food, language, and lifeways. Each unit begins with a map of the country/continent and some geographical information. Mapping activities are meant to introduce students to the area being studied, become familiar with geography, and develop beginning map skills. Teacher research information is given, followed by suggested student activities. Some reproducible student pages and patterns are provided. (MM)

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ELEMENTARY

Multicultural mini-units

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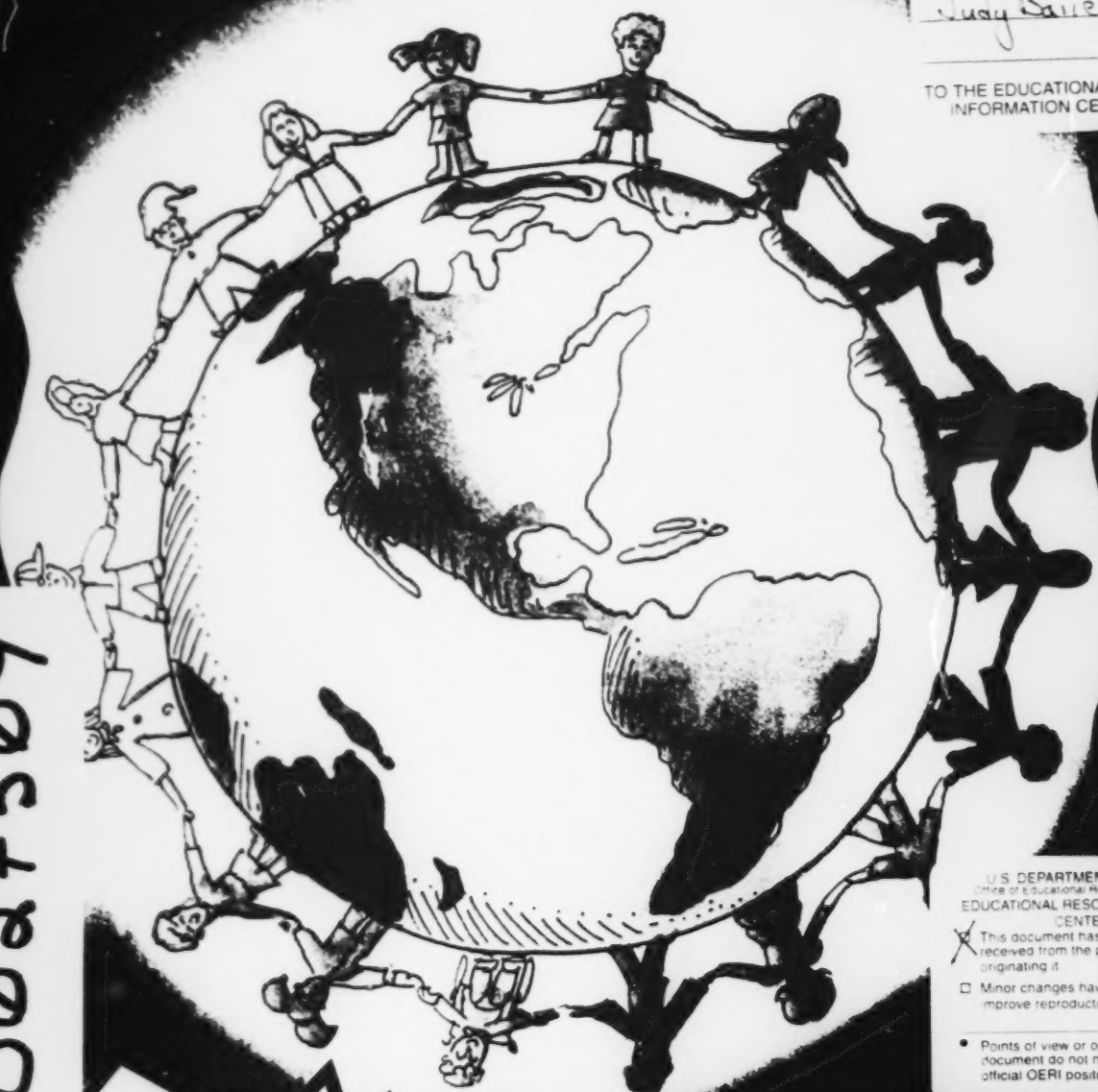

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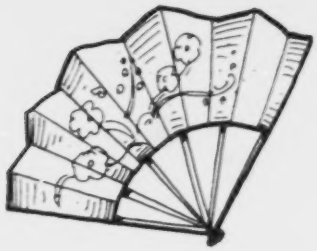

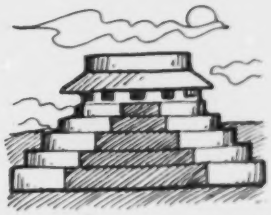

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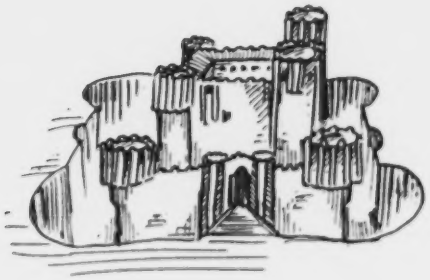

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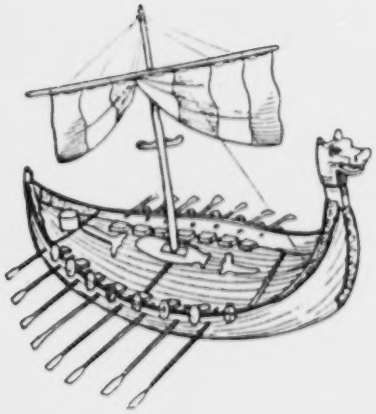

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DEDICATION

To my two incredible daughters, Katie and Kassie. At ages eleven and eight, they have hearts that are warm, open, and accepting. They value and treat all people with kindness and respect. I am proud of the young women that they are becoming.

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INTRODUCTION

Multicultural Mini-Units will take your students on a journey around the world as they learn, explore, and experience some unique and beautiful cultures.

The mini-units are designed and organized for easy use. Each unit begins with a ***map*** of the country/continent and some ***geographical information***. Before beginning a unit, the teacher should show the children, on a large world map, where the country is located, point out interesting information about its location (mountains, bodies of water, bordering countries, climate, etc.), and where the country is located in relation to where you live. When the reproducible map page from the unit is presented, the teacher should read the information to the children. The mapping activities provided on the map page are simple and are meant to introduce young children to the country being studied. as well as beginning mapping skills and beginning geography.

The rest of the pages in each unit provide the research and cross-curriculum student activities about the people and their culture. All the research is provided for the teacher. The ***research*** sections for the teacher begin with **BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS**. Following the research are the ***student activities***. These activities each begin with a bullet (•) and **Bold Proper Case Letters**.

Through a wide variety of experiential activities young children will be able to develop an understanding and appreciation of cultures that are different from their own. They will learn about different holiday customs, cultural traditions, art, music, foods, languages, and how people live. As teachers, you will treasure the resource *Multicultural Mini-Units* as it quickly becomes an integral part of your thematic planning.

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AFRICA

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color the Red Sea red.
2. Color the Mediterranean Sea blue.
3. Color the forests of Africa in dark green.
4. Label the Nile River and the Congo River.
5. Draw a camel on the Sahara Desert.
6. Color Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya gray.
7. Draw a boat in the Atlantic Ocean.

THE LAND & MAP SKILLS

Africa is the second-largest continent. It includes fifty-three independent nations populated by many different people and ancient cultures.

Africa is surrounded by water: the **Atlantic Ocean** on the west, the **Mediterranean Sea** to the north, the **Red Sea** off the upper east coast, and the **Indian Ocean** off the southeast coast.

Africa has many different and beautiful land areas. Two-fifths of Africa is covered with **deserts.** The Sahara Desert is the world's largest desert. It stretches across northern Africa from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. It covers about 3 1/2 million square miles (9 million square kilometers). The Sahara Desert is made up of sand, rocks, boulders, and a few oases.

The African **grasslands** (also called savannas) occupy another two-fifths of Africa. The grasslands reach south of the Sahara across eastern Africa. This land is filled with tall grass, bushes, and a few trees.

Forests cover less than one-fifth of Africa. Only this small portion of Africa is covered in jungle or rainforest. Such vegetation is found in parts of western Africa, Madagascar, and the Congo Basin.

Africa is well known for its spectacular **rivers** and **waterfalls**. The world's largest river, the Nile River, flows 4,415 miles (6,671 kilometers). It flows from east central Africa to the Mediterranean Sea. The second-largest river is the Congo River. It flows 2,716 miles (4,371 kilometers) from southeastern Zaire to the Atlantic Ocean. Victoria Falls on the Zimbabezi River (between Zimbabwe and Zambia) is one of the largest waterfalls in the world. At the highest point the falls rise to about 355 feet (108 meters).

Africa's large **lakes** are found in the eastern part of the continent. Lake Tanganyika, is the longest freshwater lake in the world. It is 420 miles (680 kilometers) long and more than 4,700 feet (1430 meters) deep. Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake. It covers 26,828 square miles (69,484 square kilometers). Lake Superior is the only freshwater lake larger than Lake Victoria.

Volcanoes created most of Africa's highest **mountains**. Two of the highest mountains in Africa are extinct volcanoes: Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet/5,895 meters) and Mt. Kenya (17,058 feet/5,199 meters). The Atlas Mountain range is Africa's longest mountain chain. They are found from Morocco to Tunisia.

PEOPLE & ANIMALS

RURAL LIFE IN NORTHERN AFRICA

About half of the people in northern Africa live in rural areas. They raise livestock and grow crops. Many of the people live in flat-roofed houses made with thick adobe walls. The houses are simple and lack modern conveniences such as running water. Some of the people in northern Africa are nomads, called Bedouins. The Bedouins tend camels, goats, and sheep in the Sahara.

The way of life in northern Africa is often traditional. Husbands are usually the providers, and the wives care for the children and home. The children also work on the farm or in the home. People often live together in extended families – with grandparents, aunts and uncles.

CITY LIFE IN NORTHERN AFRICA

Cairo, Egypt, is the largest city in all of Africa. People who live in large cities have a higher standard of living. They have cars, electricity, running water, hospitals, and schools. The cities have beautiful mosques (places of Islamic worship) and bazaars (outside markets). In the city it is more common for only the nuclear family (parents and children) to live together.

Activities Comparing Rural Life and City Life in Northern Africa

- **Bulletin Board** – Create a comparison bulletin board. Divide the bulletin board in half. On one half let the children draw a scene of rural life and on the other side a scene of city life.
- **African Homes** – Using shoe boxes, make North African homes. Paint the box so it looks as if it has adobe walls. Paint colorful African designs on the sides of the box.

RURAL LIFE SOUTH OF THE SAHARA DESERT

About 75 percent of the people south of the Sahara Desert live in rural villages. Although some of the villages may be large, most of them consist of forty to fifty people. The homes in the villages are made from dried mud, leaves, or grass. Many villages may also have a few buildings that are made of concrete and sheet metal. Women spend time caring for the home and family.

CITY LIFE SOUTH OF THE SAHARA DESERT

Only about 25 percent of the people south of the Sahara Desertlive in cities. The architecture often reflects both the traditional and modern styles. City life can vary widely from the wealthy, who live in luxury apartments or modern homes, to the majority of people who live in neighborhoods of small one-story houses.

Activities Comparing Rural Life and City Life South of the Sahara Desert

- **Clay Homes** – Using clay, have the children create homes that one might see south of the Sahara Desert in Africa. How are these homes different than the rural homes in northern Africa?

ANIMALS IN AFRICA

- **Mural** — Studying the animals in Africa is a lot of fun for children. Africa has some of the world's most interesting animals. Have the children make a large mural of the different land regions in Africa. Make construction paper animals and place them in their proper land region. Grasslands: giraffe, zebra, antelope, ostrich, lion, African elephant, hippopotamus. Rainforest: bongo, monkey, chimpanzee, gorilla, crocodile. Desert: camel, dromedary.

- **Table Grassland Scene** — Cover a small table in dried grasses. Let the children create clay African animals. When the clay is dry, paint the animals and arrange in a grassland scene.

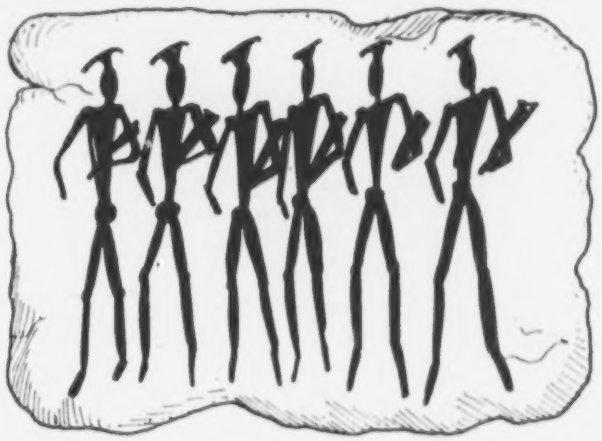
- **Big Book of African Animals** — Assign one African animal per child. Have the children illustrate their animal and write a sentence about that animal. Collect all the pages and put together in book form. Read aloud as a class.

AFRICAN ART

CAVE PAINTING

Prehistoric cave paintings are found throughout southern Africa. These paintings often represent hunting scenes. The illustration provided depicts a realistic example of African cave painting. You may enlarge the illustration to show your class an example of what a cave painting looks like.

- **Cave Painting** – Give each of the children a 9" x 12" sheet of brown paper cut from a grocery bag. Crumple the paper and then smooth it flat. This will give the paper a rough "cave" texture. Let the children paint a hunting scene on the paper.



SCULPTURE AND MASKS

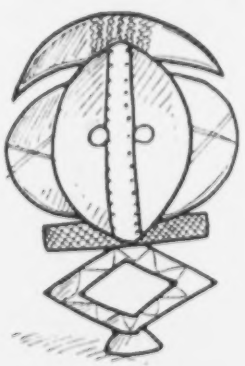
Sculpture and masks are traditional art forms of Africa. Sculpture is considered Africa's greatest achievement in the visual arts. Sculpture can be found throughout Africa, but is most frequently seen in western and central Africa. Sculpture is most commonly made from wood, although metal, stone, mud, and other materials may be used as well. Sculptures and masks were important objects in ceremonies and activities such as singing, dancing, storytelling, and drumming. Often the activity could not be performed without the piece of art.

- **Make a Sculpture**

Let the children experiment with making an African sculpture of their own. Use the following recipe to make "mud." Add brown tempera paint to the recipe to give a mud appearance. 1 cup salt; 2 cups sifted flour; 6 teaspoons alum; 2 tablespoons salad oil; 1 cup water.

- **Make a Mask**

Have the children design their own African mask. Let them look at examples from resource books. Cut a paper plate in half or three-quarters. Cut out holes for the eyes and nose. Have the children paint and then adorn their masks with feathers, beads, fabric, etc.

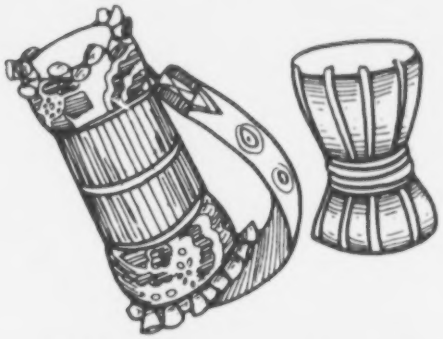


Examples of African art.

AFRICAN MUSIC

AFRICIAN MUSIC

Africa has rich and widely diverse music cultures. The forms of music are often divided into two geographical groups: northern Africa and sub-Saharan. North African music is predominantly Arabic or Islamic. Sub-Saharan music reflects a huge population of people and approximately 1000 languages. Although there is great diversity in the people, they have many traditional music traits in common.

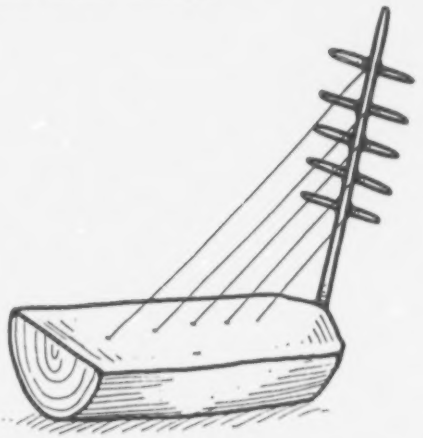


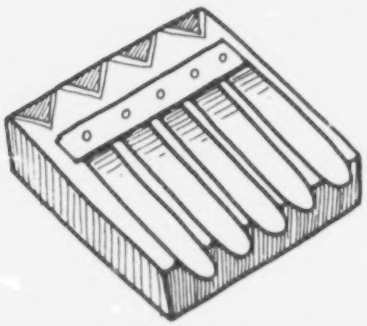
TALKING DRUMS — These drums can actually make tonal inflections and rhythms of African languages. Not only were these drums capable of producing a wide variety of sounds, but they were once used to send "drum beat" messages.

- **Make a Talking Drum** – Ask the children to bring a coffee can or oatmeal box to school. Have the children decorate them. Can the children invent a drum message? Have them work in partners when designing their drum message.

CONGOLESE HARP (NAUGA) — The nauga is made out of a hollow log with a skin stretched over the top. Strings are attached to the skin and on pegs attached to a vertical bow. The instrument is played like a harp, by plucking the strings.

- **Make A Nauga** – You can make a nauga by cutting an oatmeal box in half lengthwise. Cover the open half of the box by taping down cardboard. Attach rubber bands from the flat cardboard surface to the top of a dowel rod. Decorate your instrument.

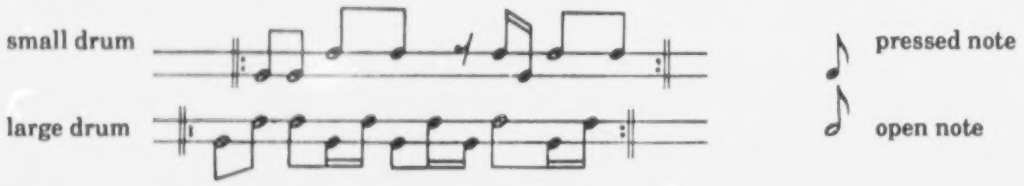




MBIRA — A mbira is a xylophone-type instrument that is unique to Africa. Iron strips are mounted on a board or box. One end of each of the iron strips is left free and extends over the edge of the box. The ends of the iron strips are plucked with the thumb and/or forefinger.

- **Make a Mbira** – Each child in the class can make a mbira with masking tape, tongue depressors, and a shoe box. Securely tape one end of the tongue depressor on the lid of the shoe box. Make sure that the other end of the tongue depressor extends off the lid. Try playing the instrument.

A MANDINKA DRUM RHYTHM COMBINATION



AUSTRALIA

Australia is the world's sixth largest country and the world's smallest continent. Australia is completely surrounded by water. The Indian Ocean borders the west and south coasts and the Pacific Ocean borders the east coast.

The country is divided into 6 states: Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and the island of Tasmania. Australia also has two territories – the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

The seasons in Australia are the opposite of the seasons in the United States and Canada. During the summer months of December to February the temperatures reach 104°F. The temperatures during the winter months of June, July, and August are generally mild, with occasional frost and snow in the southern areas.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color the Northern Territory blue.
2. Color Queensland green.
3. Color New South Wales red.
4. Color South Australia yellow.
5. Color Western Australia orange.
6. Color Tasmania pink.
7. Color Victoria purple.
8. Draw a dugong in the Indian Ocean.
9. Draw a ship in the Pacific Ocean.

PEOPLE

THE FIRST PEOPLE - THE ABORIGINES

About 40,000 years ago Australia was still joined to the continent of Asia by a chain of small islands. The ***Aborigines*** (named by the Europeans) probably sailed from island to island until they reached what is now known as Australia.

These dark-skinned people lived as nomads. They lived in family groups and hunted and fished. It is believed that the Aborigines brought the ***dingo*** dog to Australia. The dingo is an excellent hunting dog that is unable to bark. The Aborigines also were the inventors of the ***boomerang***. The boomerang is shaped like a "V" and is made out of wood. When it is thrown it will fly through the air and return to the thrower. The Aborigines used the boomerang for knocking down animals while they were hunting. Nowadays people play with boomerangs.

The Aborigines roamed Australia like nomads. They moved according to the climate and their needs. They left records of their history in rock and cave paintings which have been discovered by archeologists.

The Aborigine's religion is known as the Dreamtime or The Dreaming. They believe in spirits that come from Dreamtime. They have passed down stories from generation to generation about the spirits.

Today about half the Aborigines live in cities and have accepted a modern lifestyle. The other half have stayed in the outback (interior of Australia) and maintain their traditional tribal lifestyle.

- **Rock Painting** – Collect large stones and paint a picture about an event in your life, just like the Aborigines recorded events in their lives.
- **Boomerang** – Make a boomerang out of heavy tagboard. Can you throw it and have it return to you? It is more difficult that it sounds.
- **Aborigines Legend: Why the Stars Twinkle** – One night a very long time ago, some women went out to dig for yams. They did a lot of digging with their digging sticks. Some of the women were lucky and found yams; some of the women were not lucky and did not find any. When the women returned to their camp, those who had yams cooked them over a fire.

The women who did not have any yams felt ashamed. They decided that they would go and live in the sky so that the people could not see them. When the women were rising in the sky, the women who had found yams decided that they wanted to live in the sky too. So all the women rose up into the sky and turned into stars.

On a clear night you can see them. The stars of those women who did not find any yams are still and dim. The stars of the women who found yams are bright and they twinkle as the women on earth eat their yams.

Draw a story to illustrate your favorite part of the legend.

THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE

Captain James Cook first charted Australia in 1770. The first settlers came to Australia in 1788. They were 760 convicts and 270 British soldiers. Australia was to be a penal colony. The colony grew and more people began arriving with the convicts. These people were poor and unemployed and were willing to take a chance at a new life in a new country. Australia has become a favorite country for migrants from all parts of the world. Today Australia is a multicultural society with people from one hundred ethnic backgrounds, speaking ninety different languages, and practicing over eighty religions.

Australia has been described as having a culture similar to the United States. The language is English but sounds more like London Cockney.

- **Learn Some Common Australian Phrases -**

G'day mate — Good day friend.
Dunny — Toilet
Bloke — Person
Nipper — young child
Stone the crows — expression of surprise
Kangaroos in his top paddock — not of sound mind

MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE

WHERE DO THE PEOPLE LIVE?

Eighty-five percent of the people live in the cities. Most of these cities are located in the southeastern area of Australia. Forty percent of the Australians live in the cities of Sydney or Melbourne.

The countryside around the town is known as the ***bush***. The interior of Australia is known as the ***outback***. The outback consists mainly of grazing land. Nearly all the farms are cattle and sheep stations. It is so sparsely populated that one farm could be 100 miles away from another farm. Australia is the world's largest producer of wool.

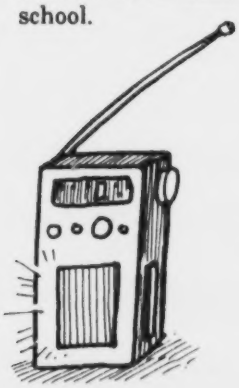
- **So Many Sheep** – Provide each of the children with an outline of a sheep reproduced on construction paper. The children should cut out the sheep and then glue on cotton. Make a bulletin board display of a sheep station in the outback.

SCHOOL

Australian schools are similar to schools in the United States. Children may attend preschool from the ages of 3 to 5. Children may attend a half day kindergarten program when they are five years old. Children are required to attend school at age of six. From the ages of six to twelve children attend primary school and study reading, writing, arithmetic, social studies, health education and creative activities. The day begins at 9:00 and finishes at 3:30.

From the ages of thirteen to sixteen children attend junior secondary school and secondary school from the ages of sixteen to eighteen.

School on the Air, is a unique educational program that is offered in Australia. This is a two-way radio educational program for children living in the outback. The students can talk with a teacher and other classmates on a two-way radio. Tests and assignments are mailed to the school.



- **Play School on the Air for a Day** – Have the children make a pretend hand-held two-way radio. Collect and rinse out the small milk cartons from lunch. Fold and tape down the pointed top and cover with construction paper. Tape a piece of yarn to the covered milk carton and tape the other end of the string to the desk. The children may want to add pretend buttons to their two-way radios. For an entire day, every time the children talk in class they need to pick up their radio and talk into it just like the children in the outback.

  For added fun – put up a mailbox and have the children "mail" their assignments to you.

FOOD

Australians love meat! Lamb is a favorite meat. Roast lamb is often an Australian family's Sunday meal. The vegetables grown in Australia are some of the largest in the world. Tomatoes grow to be the size of grapefruits – carrots can reach 14 inches long. Some of the Australians' favorite vegetables are sweet potatoes, pumpkins, eggplant, zucchini, cabbage, and peas. Fruit grows all year long in different parts of the country.

- **Scones** – Here is a favorite Australian recipe: You will need 1 tablespoon butter, 3 tablespoons sugar, 1 egg (beaten), pinch of salt, 1/4 cup milk, 3/4 cup pumpkin (cooked and mashed), 2 cups self-raising flour. Cream the butter with the sugar until it is creamy and white. Add the egg, milk, pumpkin, flour, salt, and mix well. Knead mixture into a smooth dough. Roll the dough to about half an inch thick and cut into small circles with a cookie cutter. Bake in a hot oven for 15 to 20 minutes.

GAMES, HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL SIGHTS

CRICKET

The game of cricket is the most widely played game in Australia. To play cricket you need a ball, two ***wickets*** (each wicket has three stumps and a rod resting on top of the three stumps) 22 yards apart, and a flat board bat.

The ***bowler*** (pitcher) throws the ball to the wicket opposite him/her. The ***batsman*** (batter) hits the ball. The batsman must either stop the ball or drive it into the field. If the batsman drives the ball into the field, he/she may run to the opposite wicket and change places with the other batsman. The batsman does not have to run. He should only run if he thinks that the other batsman can reach the other wicket before the ball. The wicketkeeper (similar to a catcher in baseball) tries to catch the ball. Runs may be scored if the wicketkeeper fails to stop the ball. When six balls have been bowled (thrown) at one end, another bowler at the other end takes a turn. The batsman is out if the ball hits the wicket, if the ball hits the batsman, or if the ball is caught.

The game lasts for two innings which can take several days. An inning lasts until all the team players have been retired. Cricket is a polite game. That is where the old expression, "It isn't cricket," comes from.

- **Can You Play Cricket?** – Research more about the game of cricket. Try to play the game. How is the game similar to baseball? How is it different?

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef, off the northeastern coastline of Australia, is a coral reef. It stretches for over 1000 miles, making it the largest coral reef in the world.

Reef-building corals grow only where the ocean water is warm (above 68°). The water must be clear and shallow enough for sunlight to reach the bottom. Coral reefs are made by tiny animals called corals. Corals grow in colonies – they stay joined to one another. New colonies can even grow on top of dead colonies. Eventually, the dead colonies and living colonies (which are like stone) form a reef that can stretch for hundreds of miles. Coral reefs provide homes for colorful fish and interesting plant life.

People who want to see the Great Barrier Reef in Australia can do so by riding in glass-bottom boats or diving under the water for a close look. The Great Barrier Reef has been made a national park to protect the wildlife. So, if you go diving to see the reef the big rule is – don't touch!

- **Classroom Barrier Reef** – Have the children work together to create the Great Barrier Reef in colored chalk on your blackboard. Remember, coral comes in many different colors. Worms, shrimp, crab, and other fish find food and shelter on a reef. Add these to your picture.

AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day, also known as Foundation Day, celebrates the day the first British (convicts and some free settlers) arrived in Australia, on January 26, 1788. People hold festivals outside and watch re-enactments of the first landing. At night people watch fireworks.

- **Historical Celebrations** – Australia Day celebrates an important event in Australia's history. What celebrations does your country have that celebrate a historical event? How many can you think of? Make a list of these celebrations and list the activities that occur on each day.

BOXING DAY

Boxing Day is an official day in Australia, held December 26, the day after Christmas. The custom began by people giving Christmas boxes to mail carriers, city officials, servants, etc.

- **Boxing Day At School** – Make a box and have each child write a nice thought to put in the box. Give it to the school janitor, cook, or someone else who does special things for your school.

AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS

GIANT GRAY KANGAROOS

Kangaroos have become the symbol of Australia. The giant gray kangaroo is the largest of the 50 species of kangaroos. It can grow up to 7 feet tall and can weigh 200 pounds. It is best known for its huge feet and long, powerful tail. Kangaroos are found in open forest and in the bush. They rest during the day and feed at dusk. Kangaroos travel in herds *(mobs)*. The older male leaders of the mob are called boomers. Kangaroos are marsupials – they are known for carrying their young in a pouch. A kangaroo will have one baby *(joey)* at a time. The joey is only an inch long when it is born. It finds its way to its mother's pouch where it will stay for a month. For the next year the joey will only come out for short visits.

- **Paper Bag Kangaroos** – Using a lunch bag, make a kangaroo puppet. Attach a pocket to the front of the bag to be used as a pouch for a construction paper joey.

KOALA

The koala is not a bear, it is a marsupial. The koala has thick ash-gray wooly fur. The koala has a darling face, with bright eyes, a large leathery nose, and big fluffy ears. Koalas live exclusively in eucalyptus forests and only eat eucalyptus leaves. They receive enough moisture from the leaves so they do not have to drink water. The koala only leaves a tree to climb into another tree. They sleep 18 hours a day and spend the rest of their time eating. They give birth to one baby at a time. The baby lives in the mother's pouch for 6 months and then will ride on its mother's back for another 4 or 5 months.

- **Koala Mask** – Using a paper plate, paint the plate gray. When the paint is dry, add gray construction paper ears, a large black nose, cut out small eyes holes, and draw on a small mouth. Attach a tongue depressor to the bottom of the paper plate so it can be held in front of a child's face.

PLATYPUS

For many years no one knew what a platypus was. The platypus is a mammal that has a soft bill like a duck; a flat, beaver-like tail; and webbed feet. The platypus is native to eastern Australia and Tasmania, where it lives near rivers and streams. It is awkward on land but is a graceful swimmer. Some of its favorite foods are snails, worms, shrimp, and small fish. The male platypus is the only mammal (other than some shrews) that is poisonous. They have a hollow claw on each hind leg that is attached to a poison gland. A scratch from this claw is strong enough to kill an animal and will make a human very sick.

- **That Crazy Mixed-Up Platypus** – The platypus looks like a mixture of several different animals. Design your own crazy animal. Use body parts from at least four different animals to create your own animal.

DUGONG

Dugongs are marine mammals that have descended from the elephant. Its body structure is similar to a whale's. This animal can measure up to 12 feet and weighs over 600 pounds. They have an unusual snout – short, blunt, rounded, with a whiskered upper lip. Dugongs spend their entire life in the water. They only surface to breathe every 1 to 10 minutes. Some people believe that the stories of mermaids originated when seamen first saw dugongs.

- **The Dugong Mermaid** – Read a story about a mermaid. As a class, write your own story about a mermaid and a dugong.

KOOKABURRA

People who live around kookaburra call them the laughing jackass. They have earned this name from the loud laughing braying sound they make. Naturalists believe that the kookaburra does this to let others know the boundaries of its territory. An old Aboriginal legend tells a story of the kookaburra who has to sing its song to tell the sky people to light the fire (sun) of the day.

- **The Old Gum Tree** – Learn the song, *Kookaburra Sits In The Old Gum Tree*. (Ask a Girl Scout leader or your music teacher.) Write a legend about a kookaburra.

BRAZIL

Brazil is the largest country in all of South America. It occupies nearly half of the land on the continent. The western half of the country is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean. The eastern half is bordered by other South American countries.

Both northern and northeastern Brazil consist of the Amazon Plain. This is an area of tropical rainforests, exotic animals, and the world's longest and most famous river – the Amazon. The Amazon River begins in the Peruvian Andes and flows 4,087 miles (6,576 kilometers) until it empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The Amazon River supplies half of the earth's oxygen.

The southern half of Brazil consists primarily of highlands and mountains. Iguaçu Falls is a wondrous sight. Iguaçu Falls drops 250 feet which creates a rainbow and huge masses of white foam.

Since Brazil lies in the tropics its climate is warm all year long. Brazil has a moderate rainy season during its summer months of December through April.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Draw an Amazon dolphin in the Amazon River.
2. Draw tropical rainforests in the northern half (around the Amazon River) of Brazil.
3. Draw a waterfall by Iguaçu Falls.
4. Draw a boat in the Atlantic Ocean.

PEOPLE

HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE OF BRAZIL

The Indians were the first people to live in Brazil. They lived in large houses with thatched roofs. The houses were so large that many families could live in one house. Often only three or four houses were needed for an entire village.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to come to Brazil. The Indians taught the Portuguese many things – their language, how to plant certain crops, and what plants were safe to eat. The Portuguese established large plantations and used the Indians as the plantation workers. The plantations grew and prospered because of the Indians' hard work. Unfortunately, the Portuguese brought many diseases to Brazil that the Indians had never been exposed to. Many Indians became sick and died of smallpox, tuberculosis, and even the common cold.

When the work force was weakened by the death of so many Indians, the Portuguese increased their work force with African slaves. The Africans brought many of their customs, traditions, music, and religions to Brazil.

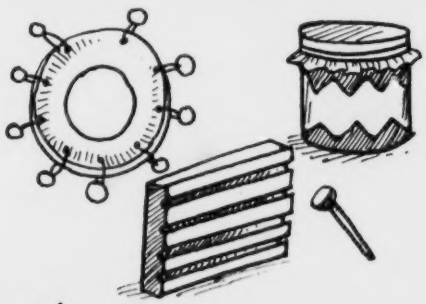
The native Indians, the Portuguese, and the Africans were the three groups of people who began Brazil's melting pot. Today one can see the influences of all these groups of people in Brazil.

- **A Melting Pot** – Explain the term "melting pot" to the children. Make a list of all the nationalities represented in your classroom.

SAMBA

Samba music is an excellent example of how cultures of different people blend together. Brazilian samba is a mixture of Portuguese folklore and African rhythms.

Samba music is played primarily with percussion instruments. The ***surdo*** is a large tambourine with round tins (similar to small cymbals) around the edge. The ***reco-reco*** is a metal tube (about the size of a small log) with one side that is grated. The grated side is stroked with a stick to make a constant rhythmic sound. The ***cavaguinho*** is similiar to a ukulele. The ***agogô*** looks like two steel cones that are hit with a rod. Each cone makes a different sound.



- **Make Some Samba Instruments** – A ***tambourine*** can be made by stapling or tying two paper plates together and attaching bells to the edges. An instrument similar to the ***reco-reco*** can be made by using a board with ridges sawed across it. Play it by scraping a tongue depressor or stick across the top. ***Drums*** are effective when they are made from a coffee can filled one-third with water. Stretch an innertube over the top and secure with heavy rubber bands.

BRASÍLLA

Brasílla is the capital of Brazil. In an old country, this is a new and modern city. The capital of Brazil had been Rio de Janeiro. When Brazil was still a Portuguese colony people felt that the capital should be moved from the coast to the center of the country. They worried that a coastal capital was vulnerable to attacks from enemy ships. A capital located in the center of the country would be safer. This idea of a new capital was only a dream until 1956 when President Juscelino Kubitschek promised to build the new capital. Work began in 1957 and on April 21, 1960 the city was opened.

The city was created in the shape of an airplane with a body and two wings – one north and one south with a highway running through the two wings. Two man-made lakes were created – one in each wing.

Most people live in ***superquadras*** (apartment blocks). These are six-story buildings that are completely self-sufficient. Every four superquadras has its own playground, school, stores, theater and park.

- **Design Your Own City** – Draw a picture of your own city. What types of houses would the people live in. Are there parks? Theaters? Stores? What is the landscape like?

PRODUCTS FROM BRAZIL

COCOA

Cocoa is made from the seeds in the yellow pods of the cocoa tree. The seeds are called cocoa beans. Bahia is the state in Brazil that produces most of the cocoa.

- **Have a Cup of Cocoa** – Make hot cocoa in the classroom. Make a list of things that contain cocoa.

COFFEE

Brazil is the world's leading producer of coffee. Coffee comes from the beans of coffee trees. Coffee trees are small and grow coffee cherries. The coffee cherries are green at first and turn red when they are ready to be picked. After they are picked they are laid out in the sun for fifteen days. After drying in the sun the coffee cherries are put in a machine that removes the husk. What remains is the green coffee bean. The beans are then sent to coffee companies where they are roasted (the roasting turns the coffee bean brown), ground, packaged, and sold in stores.

- **Textured Coffee Pictures** – You will need: tagboard, dried and used coffee grounds, paint made by mixing instant coffee in water, containers for coffee paint, paint brushes, glue, and a pencil. Using a pencil, lightly sketch the outline of a picture on a tagboard background. Rub glue in the areas where you want the coffee grounds to be a part of your picture. Sprinkle the coffee grounds on the glue and let the glue dry. Complete your picture with "instant coffee paint." Write a story about your picture.

RUBBER

Rubber comes from trees that grow wild in the Amazon region. The people in Brazil call these trees ***seringueiras***. The people who tap the trees to drain the liquid rubber are called ***seringueiros*** (rubber tappers). The rubber that comes out of the trees is called ***latex***. It looks good enough to eat – but it smells awful, just like old tires.

Rubber tappers cut the sides of the trunks of the tress and hang small cups underneath the cut. The latex drips into the small cups. Rubber tappers empty the small cups into large containers and send it off to factories where the rubber is made into many different items.

- **Things That Are Rubber** – Make a list of things that are made out of rubber.
- **The Story of Rubber** – Make a big book story about how rubber is made. Have the children work in small cooperative learning groups, each group illustrating a different phase of rubber production.

PRECIOUS JEWELS

Brazil is well known for the mining of precious gems – especially diamonds. Brazil is one of the only places in the world where black diamonds can be found. Brazil produces about ninety percent of the world's aquamarines, topazes, amethysts, tourmalines, and has just recently begun producing emeralds.

- **Colors of Gems** – What color are aquamarines, topazes, amethysts, tourmalines, diamonds, and emeralds? Draw pictures of these gems and add glitter in the appropriate colors.

CATTLE AND COWBOYS

Brazil has the fourth -largest herd of beef cattle in the world. The men who work on the cattle ranches as cowboys are ***gauchos***. The gauchos take care of the cattle. The gauchos eat meat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They are famous for their ***churrasco*** (barbeque) – meat cooked on a spit over an open fire.

They wear traditional clothing: ***bombaches*** (baggy pants) which are narrow at the ankle to fit into knee-high boots; a bandana around their neck; and, broad-brimmed hats.

- **Cowboy Fun** – Write a short poem about being a gaucho. Make an illustration to accompany your poem.

THE AMAZON

THE AMAZON BASIN

This is the area around the Amazon River – the world's largest river – covering 2,900,000 square miles withh seventy percent located within the borders of Brazil. In this region is the world's largest rainforest, covering 1,450,000 square miles.

The Amazon River is important because it supplies half the earth's supply of oxygen and makes up one-fifth of the earth's fresh water supply. It pours about eight trillion gallons of water a day into the Atlantic Ocean.

ANIMALS OF THE AMAZON

JAGUAR – The jaguar has a head-to-body length of 6 feet, a weight of 300 pounds, and a loud roar. It is the most ferocious animal in Central and South America. The jaguar has fur that is usually a yellowish-tan, with black dots encircled by black rings. Since many jaguars live in the rainforests of South America, they have become great swimmers. Jaguars are also skilled climbers and they spend a great deal of time in the trees.

- **Felidae** – The jaguar is a member of the family ***Felidae***. Make a list of other animals in this family.

CROCODILIANS – Crocodiles, alligators, caimans, and gavials make up the reptile group of crocodilians. These animals lived 200 million years ago with the dinosaurs. Most crocodiles are greenish and all are heavily scaled. When its body is submerged underwater a crocodile is still able to see and breathe because its eyes and nostrils are located on top of its head.

- **Crocodile Tears** – Have you ever heard the expression, "crocodile tears?" When a crocodile swallows a large piece of food, it puts pressure on the back of its mouth, which squeezes the tear glands. Write a short story about the "crying crocodile."

LIZARDS – Lizards have movable eyelids and good eyesight. They do not have ears, but they have ear openings on the sides of their head. A lizard will use its tongue for feeding and for smelling. They protect themselves with a variety of interesting behaviors. Some lizards "freeze," others bluff their way through danger by swelling up their bodies to look bigger, and some make hissing noises. Not all lizards move in the same way, some crawl, while others prefer to run, climb, leap, or even swim.

- **Lizards** – Look up lizard in the encyclopedia. Find out which lizards live in the Amazon River Basin.

MACAWS – Macaws are the largest members of the parrot family. They make their homes in holes in tree trunks. Many different kinds of macaws are in danger of extinction. They have been irresponsibly sold to zoos and sold as pets – they do not make good pets because they scream and bite. Laws now protect these birds. Destruction of the rainforests is causing the macaws to lose their natural habitat.

- **Rainforest Bulletin Board** – Paint a mural of a rainforest. Have each child in the class create a different macaw for the bulletin board.

TOUCANS – Toucans are large, beautiful birds which are easily recognized by their enormous colorful bills. The *toco toucan* has a black back, white throat patch, and a yellow and black-tipped bill. Although the bill of the toucan looks heavy, it is hollow and made from a horn-like material. Toucans have been observed tossing fruit to one another, just as if they were playing a game.

- **Save The Rainforests** – More kinds of animals live in rainforests than any other type of habitat in the world. Write a paragraph about saving the rainforests.

SPIDER MONKEYS – Spider monkeys are the acrobats of South America. Spider monkeys are able to grasp and pick up objects with their tails. Spider monkeys live in trees and rarely come down to the ground. They can run through the trees as fast as a human can run on flat ground. Spider monkeys can jump between trees that are 30 feet apart.

- **Little Old Women** –The name *monkey* comes from the Latin word meaning "old woman." Write a short story about why you think monkeys were given this name.

PIRANHA – Piranha range in size from 4 to 18 inches. Thousands travel in a group and have been known to tear the flesh off the skeleton of a large animal in a few minutes. Scientists have now learned that often a piranha will ignore people if they are left alone.

- **Find a Picture** – Locate a picture of a piranha in an enclyclopedia. Notice their teeth!

CANADA

Canada is one of the world's largest countries. It is divided into ten provinces and two territories – Northwest Territory and the Yukon Territory. Canada is bordered on the south by the United States and four of the Great Lakes. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the east; the Arctic Ocean to the north; and Alaska and the Pacific Ocean lie to the west.

Canada is a country of beautiful lakes, prairies, forests, rivers and mountains. The Canadian Rockies are in the west. Hudson Bay is located near the center of Canada.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color the provinces yellow.
2. Color the territories green.
3. Color the four Great Lakes that border Canada blue.
4. Color the Rocky Mountains brown.

PEOPLE & PLACES

WHO LIVES IN CANADA?

Thousands of years ago a land bridge connected Asia to North America. People from Asia crossed the land bridge to live in what is now called Canada. The Europeans would later call these people Indians.

Hundreds of years later, more people from Asia crossed the land bridge and called themselves Inuit. Later these people were called Eskimo by the Indian people. For many years only these two groups of people – the Indians and the Inuit lived in Canada. The land bridge between the two continents vanished underwater when the glacier melted.

Hundreds of years later, European people began exploring the "New World." In the early 1600s Samuel de Champlain began exploring and colonizing Canada. He is often called the "Father of New France." In 1663, Louis XIV made Canada a province of France. By the late 1600s Britain had established colonies in Canada. Much fighting occurred between the British and the French. The fighting lasted for many years. Finally France gave up Canada to Great Britain in the Treaty of Paris on February 10, 1763.

The majority of Canada's population still comes from these four groups of people. About 40 percent are British, 29 percent are French, 2 percent are Indian and Inuit, and the remaining 29 percent are people who have come to Canada from other parts of the world.

Because of the population mix, Canada has two national languages – English and French.

- **Learn Some Phrases in French and English –**

Hello	Bonjour	How are you?	Ça va?
Things are going fine.	Oui, ça va.	And you?	Et toi?
Very well	Trés bien	Thank you	Merci
What time is it?	Quelle heure est-til?	Good-bye	Au revoir
It is ___o'clock.	Il est ___ heure.	Good night	Bonsoir

YUKON & NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Indigenous Indians and the Inuit are only a small percentage of Canada's total population, but they account for a major portion of the population in the Yukon and Northwest territories. The Inuit were the original settlers of the area. "Inuit" in their own language means "people." They learned to live in the cold and harsh conditions of the wilderness. They caught seals and whales for food and also used these animals' pelts and bones to provide clothing, materials for building shelters, and weapons.

Some of the Inuit still follow their old customs and traditions, while others work as Mounties, nurses, teachers, miners, or weather observers.

The Inuit people are well-known for their soapstone sculptures.

- **Soap Sculptures** – Ask the children to bring a bar of bath soap to class. (*Dove* soap works well because it is a soft soap.) They will be making sculptures similar to the soapstone sculptures of the Inuit. A tongue depressor, craft stick, or plastic knife works well for carving. The children should first use a sharp pencil and draw an outline of an animal on the side of the soap. Carve around the outline. Polar bears, whales, and seals, are easy shapes to carve.

PIONEERS

The early pioneers that established colonies in what is now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Quebec had to build their own houses and make their own furniture and other necessary items. There are thick forests in this area which provided them all the wood they needed. Most of the homes were one-room log cabins. The people made and furnished the inside of the home with a bed, table, benches, cupboards, shelves, dishes, utensils, buckets, plates and a stone fireplace.

- **Pioneer Home** – Design the inside of a pioneer home. Be careful to add only the items that pioneers could make from the materials found in the wilderness.

NATURE & ANIMALS

ANIMALS

There are a variety of animals found in Canada. The following is a list of thirty-two Canadian and North American animals.

Grouse	Skunk	Pronghorn
Canadian Geese	Squirrel	Mink
Owl	Wolf	Muskrat
Swallow	Otter	Moose
Prairie Dog	Lynx	Deer
Porcupine	Bison	Bighorn Sheep
Badger	Beaver	Weasel
Black Bear	Coyote	Fox
Grizzly Bear		

Far North:	Seal	Walrus	Caribou	Polar Bear
	Musk Ox	Blue Whale	Arctic Hare	Arctic Fox

- **Classroom Big Book of Animals** – Assign each child an animal. On a white sheet of paper, have the child illustrate the animal and write a paragraph about the animal. Have each child present a picture and paragraph to the class. Laminate the pages and punch three holes along the left side of the page. Illustrate a cover and bind all the pages together to form a classroom big book of Canadian animals.
- **Bulletin Board** – Make an outline of a map of Canada on a bulletin board. Have each child illustrate an animal. Color and cut out the animals and place them on the map of Canada. Be sure that the animals found in the arctic regions of Canada are placed in the appropriate place on the bulletin board.
- **Stand-Up Animals** – Using cardboard, draw an outline of an animal without legs. Paint the animal on both sides. Paint two clothespins to match the color that the animal was painted. When the paint has dried, use the clothespins as the animal's legs – clipping them to the underside of the animal. The animals will stand up. You can create a wonderful table display by adding greenery, trees, rivers, and hills.

NORTHERN LIGHTS

During the summer months, in the far north of Canada, the sun barely sets. On Baffin Island the sun shines the entire month of July. There is no nighttime darkness. The winter months are filled with short days and long winter nights. Most commonly, in the spring and fall, people can watch the ***aurora borealis*** (often called the northern lights). The northern lights look like a light show in the sky. Many different colors appear – green the most common.

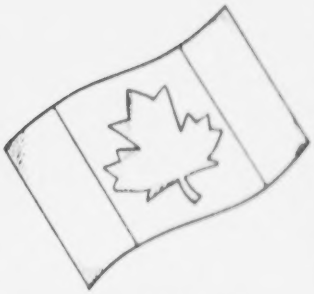
- **What Do They Look Like?** – Look up "aurora borealis" in the encyclopedia so the children can see a photograph of what the northern lights look like.
- **Painting the Northern Lights** – The children can paint the northern lights by dampening a piece of construction paper with a sponge. Using water colors, have the children spread the paint across the paper. This will cause the paint to resemble the northern lights spread across the sky.

CANADA'S TREES

Forests cover 1.7 million square miles of Canada. Forest products are a huge industry in Canada. Canada provides 40 percent of the world's newsprint. Canada's forests are not only important because of the products made from the trees, but they also provide homes for the Canadian wildlife, they conserve water, and they help the environment. Some of the most common trees found in Canada are maple, spruce, oak, birch, Douglas fir, hemlock, and cedar.

- **Draw a Tree** – Make a nature book of Canada's trees. Locate books about trees. Compare how they are alike and different. Have the children draw a picture of their favorite tree.

TOTALLY CANADIAN



FLAG

The maple tree is so common in Canada that its leaf was chosen in 1965 for the emblem on Canada's national flag. The color red was chosen because the maple leaf turns a bright red in the fall. The red stripes on either side of the leaf symbolize Canada's position between two oceans.

- **Make a Canadian Flag** – If you are studying this unit during the fall, try to locate a real red maple leaf to use on your flag. You can also make a red maple leaf by tracing around a real maple leaf on red construction paper. Cut out the leaf, glue it on white paper, and add the red stripe on either side of the maple leaf.

MOUNTIES

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Mounties) are world-famous. They began their service in 1874 when 300 police recruits were summoned from Manitoba to establish law and order in the Northwest. The 300 men traveled 800 miles on horseback wearing bright red coats. Today the highway that follows their route is called "Red Coat Trail." The Mounties job was to keep order between the settlers and gold rush explorers, to patrol the land, and to protect the Indians. They no longer patrol on horseback, but instead ride through the skies in aircraft. In the winter months they once patrolled using sled dog teams. Nowadays they ride over the snow on snowmobiles.

- **Comparing Police** – Make a comparison chart. On one side of the chart make a list of all the things that the police in your community do. On the other side of the chart make a list of the responsibilities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. How are they alike? How are they different?

BEAVER

The beaver is an official emblem of Canada. It is pictured today on the Canadian nickel. Without the beaver Canada may not have grown so quickly.

When the early French and English explorers first came to Canada they found that beavers were plentiful in the rivers, streams, and forests. Beavers in Europe were scarce. The Europeans loved beaver fur and were willing to pay large sums of money for the pelts. The pelts were used for making high-fashion hats in Europe. The fur traders followed the beavers westward and opened up more Canadian land for colonies and fur-trading posts.

The fur-trading posts and Europe's desire for beaver fur nearly wiped out all of Canada's beaver population. Laws were passed to protect the beaver. Today, once again, beavers are a common sight in Canada.

- **Clay Beaver** – Using clay, mold a beaver. Make sure to include the beaver's large flat tail. Display the beavers in a pond or forest scene on a table. Foil can be used for the water and the beaver dam can be made from sticks and bark.

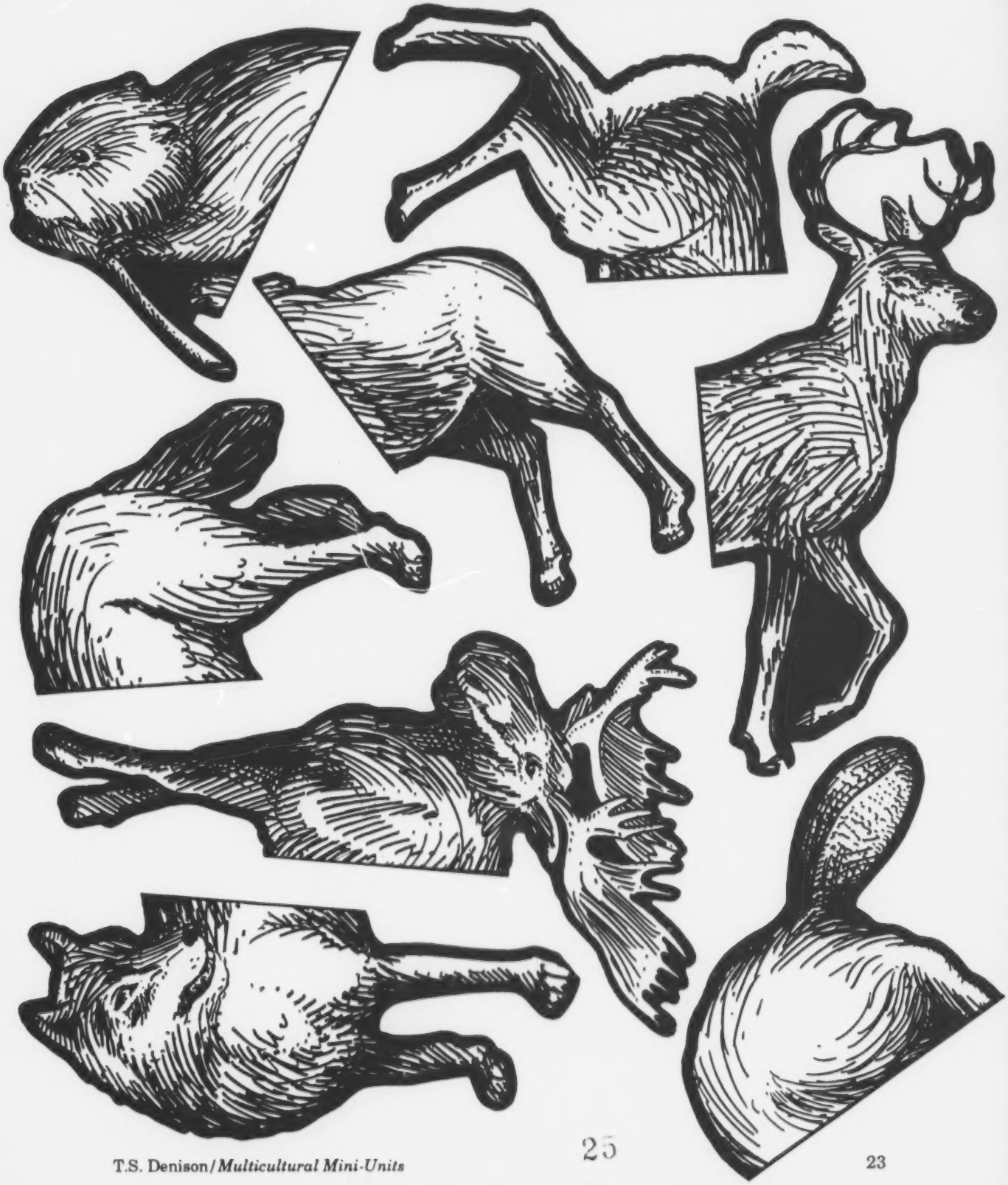
HOCKEY

Hockey is the national sport of Canada. The United States and Canada play in the National Hockey League. The major goal of this league is to win the Stanley Cup. The Montreal Canadiens have won this trophy more than any other hockey team.

- **Hockey** - Play a game of broom hockey in the gym.
- **Research** - Find out how many teams are members of the National Hockey League. How many teams are Canadian? How many are American?

Canadian Animal Puzzles

Cut out the animal puzzle pieces. Arrange the pieces to make four Canadian animals. Glue on a piece of construction paper.



CHINA

China is the world's third-largest country. Its land is varied from subarctic regions in the north, fertile plains in the east, deserts in the west, and tropical lowlands in the south.

China is bordered by many countries: the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Burma, Laos, Vietnam, Bhutan, Nepal, and North Korea.

Off the east coast of China is the Pacific Ocean, including the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea.

Mount Everest, the largest mountain in the world, is on the border of China and Nepal. It rises 5 1/2 miles above sea-level.

Millions of trees have been planted in north and northwest China in an attempt to stop the soil erosion caused by the strong winds in this area of the country.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Circle Peking, the capital of China.
2. Draw and color the newly planted trees in the north.
3. Draw a ship in the South China Sea.
4. Color China green.

PEOPLE

THE PEOPLE

About 94 percent of the people in China are Han Chinese – the majority of whom live on the east side of China. The remaining 6 percent belong to one of fifty-six minorities. The largest ethnic groups live on half of China's territory along the northern, western, and southern borders. They all have their own languages and religions. All minority children learn Chinese, but they also have the right to study their own language at school. The Chinese are hard-working, considerate, polite, respectful of their elders, and very proud of their country.

- **Map** – On a map, show the children the country of China. Explain the 94% living in the east, and the 6 percent in the rest of the country. (This will help the children understand the crowded cities and vast land discussed later in the unit.)

LIVING IN THE CITY

There are over thirty-one cities with populations over a million. People living in cities work eight hours a day, six days a week, for low salaries. Most families live in small houses or apartments. These homes have two or three rooms. They usually have electricity. Many families have to share a kitchen, a bathroom, and running water. Families only have the necessary possessions: usually a bed for each family member, several chairs, and some clothing. In recent times people have started to collect a few personal items such as radios and televisions.

- **Living with Only the Necessities** – The people in the cities of China do not have many extra possessions. Make a list of the things that you think are necessities. What could you live without?

LIVING IN THE COUNTRY

The land is owned by the government, divided into plots, and farmed by individual families. Part of what is grown must be sold back to the government at a set price. The people live in small houses built from mud or clay bricks and have thatched roofs. There are no bathrooms, running water, or electricity. The people sleep on beds made of bamboo mats and padded quilts. These beds are raised up on a brick platform called a ***kang***. A chimney from the charcoal stove passes under the kang. This keeps the beds warm.

Grandparents, parents, and children all live together. It is the grandparent's responsibility to look after the children, to do light housework, and to prepare the meals. Both parents typically work in the fields.

- **Mud Homes** – Make a Chinese country home using clay. Mold the clay into a square. Go outside and find some dried grass that you can use to make a thatched roof.

TIBETANS

In the far southwestern corner of China is Tibet. It is a land surrounded by mountains. The people in Tibet often have different jobs according to the seasons. In the spring the people may farm, in the summer they may herd sheep and goats, and in the winter they become traders.

A fun tradition in Tibet occurs a few days after a baby is born. The lamas (religious leaders) give the baby a secret name. The secret name is written down on a small piece of paper. The paper is put into a small bag that is worn on a necklace around the person's neck for the rest of his/her life.

- **My Own Secret Name** – In the morning ask the children to think of a secret name for themselves. Write the name down on a piece of paper. Put the name in a small envelope. Punch a hole in the envelope and string a piece of yarn through the hole so it can be worn as a necklace. Tell everyone to keep their name a secret until the end of the day. Before the children go home let them have the fun of sharing their secret name.

EDUCATION AND FOOD

SCHOOL

Children begin school at age six and attend primary school for six years. They go to school six days a week. They study math, science, history, geography, art, general knowledge, politics, and learn to read and write Chinese. They learn to cooperate as a group, to be patriotic, punctual, and polite. Children who set a good example are able to join the Young Pioneers Youth Organization. They wear red neckerchiefs around their necks – to be able to wear a red neckerchief is a great honor.

At age twelve children can go to secondary school. Fewer than half finish secondary school, since they are often needed to work with their parents.

Schools are in session nine and a half months a year. There is a one month summer vacation, a one month winter vacation, and a two-week social labor program where older students clean schools, plant trees, or learn a craft.

- **Red Fabric** – Begin a good behavior program in your room, just like the Chinese. Bring in some red bandanas. Children who set a good example can wear a red bandana.
- **Daily Exercise** – Physical education and being physically fit is extremely important to the Chinese. Schools begin their day with a daily exercise program. Try a morning exercise program in your class. Children who are physically fit feel better.

LANGUAGE

Chinese is spoken by over a hundred million people in the world. It is also the official language of the United Nations.

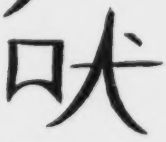
The Chinese language has no alphabet. Sentences are made from over 50,000 "characters or "ideographs." These must be memorized. Our letters in the alphabet represent sounds. Ideographs do not represent sounds, but rather they represent ideas. To read Chinese fluently one needs to memorize four thousand to six thousand characters.

- **Learn Some Chinese** – Try to write some words in Chinese.

moon

up

down


(to bark)

dog

FOOD

Stir-fry (quick-cooking) was designed because fuel for cooking was not always available. People took many different vegetables and thin slices of meat and could cook them quickly in hot oil using only a small amount of fuel. The most common meals for people in China consist of the following: Breakfast – rice porridge with vegetables and steamed buns; Lunch – steamed rice, stir-fried vegetables and soup; Dinner – (almost the same as breakfast) rice porridge and a steamed roll. Hot tea or hot water is served with meals. The Chinese do not like to drink cold drinks.

The following traditional Chinese recipes are easy to prepare in school:

- **Egg-Drop Soup** – You will need: 2 cans (14 ounces each) chicken broth; 1 egg, slightly beaten; 2 tablespoons chopped parsley. Heat the chicken broth just to boiling. Pour in the beaten egg very slowly, stirring constantly until the egg cooks and separates. Pour into bowls and sprinkle with parsley.
- **Sizzling Rice** – You will need: 1 1/2 cups regular uncooked rice and vegetable oil for frying. Cook the rice, following the directions on the package. Drain. Spread in a thin layer in a shallow pan. Chill overnight. The next day, pour oil 1/4-inch deep. Heat the pan to 400°. Spoon rice – 3/4 cup at a time. Turn pan once. Rice will stick together.

ART, ANIMALS, & FUN

CALLIGRAPHY

Calligraphy was developed into an art form in China over 2,000 years ago. It is a decorative form of handwriting. Originally calligraphy was done with a brush. It is now done with special pens and ink.

- **Try Some Calligraphy** – Give each of the children a piece of construction paper, watercolors, and a paint brush. Let them try to write some words as neatly and artistically as they can with the paint brush.

PAPER CUT

This is a traditional and well-known Chinese art form. People use thin tissue paper and a sharp blade. Paper cut has been used to decorate people's homes on special occasions.

- **Paper Cut Pictures** – Provide the children with some colored tissue paper and scissors (razor blades are too dangerous). Have the children fold the tissue paper and make some cuts along the fold. Unfold the tissue and glue on black paper.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Chinese New Year comes between January and early February. It is called ***Yuan Tan***. Each year has its own animal. There are twelve different animals. Families paint their front doors red. On New Year's Eve the oldest male seals the front door with tape. At midnight, to welcome the New Year, the tape is broken on the door and the new year is welcomed into the home.

- **Chinese New Year's Animals** – These are the Chinese New Year's animals: boar, dog, horse, monkey, ox, dragon, sheep, rat, tiger, snake, rooster, and rabbit. Work in cooperative learning groups. Assign each group an animal. The children should make a New Year's Day poster advertising the New Year featuring their assigned animal.

PANDAS

The giant panda was once considered to be only a myth—a story about a giant black and white Chinese animal that people had dreamed up. Not until 1869 did scientists discover that giant black and white pandas really did exist. The giant panda is one of the world's most endearing animals. The giant panda has a snow-white body with black legs, arms, and shoulders. The panda's face is white with black ears and black circles around it's eyes. The panda looks like a giant stuffed animal. Pandas reach a height of 4 to 5 feet and weigh 200 to 250 pounds.

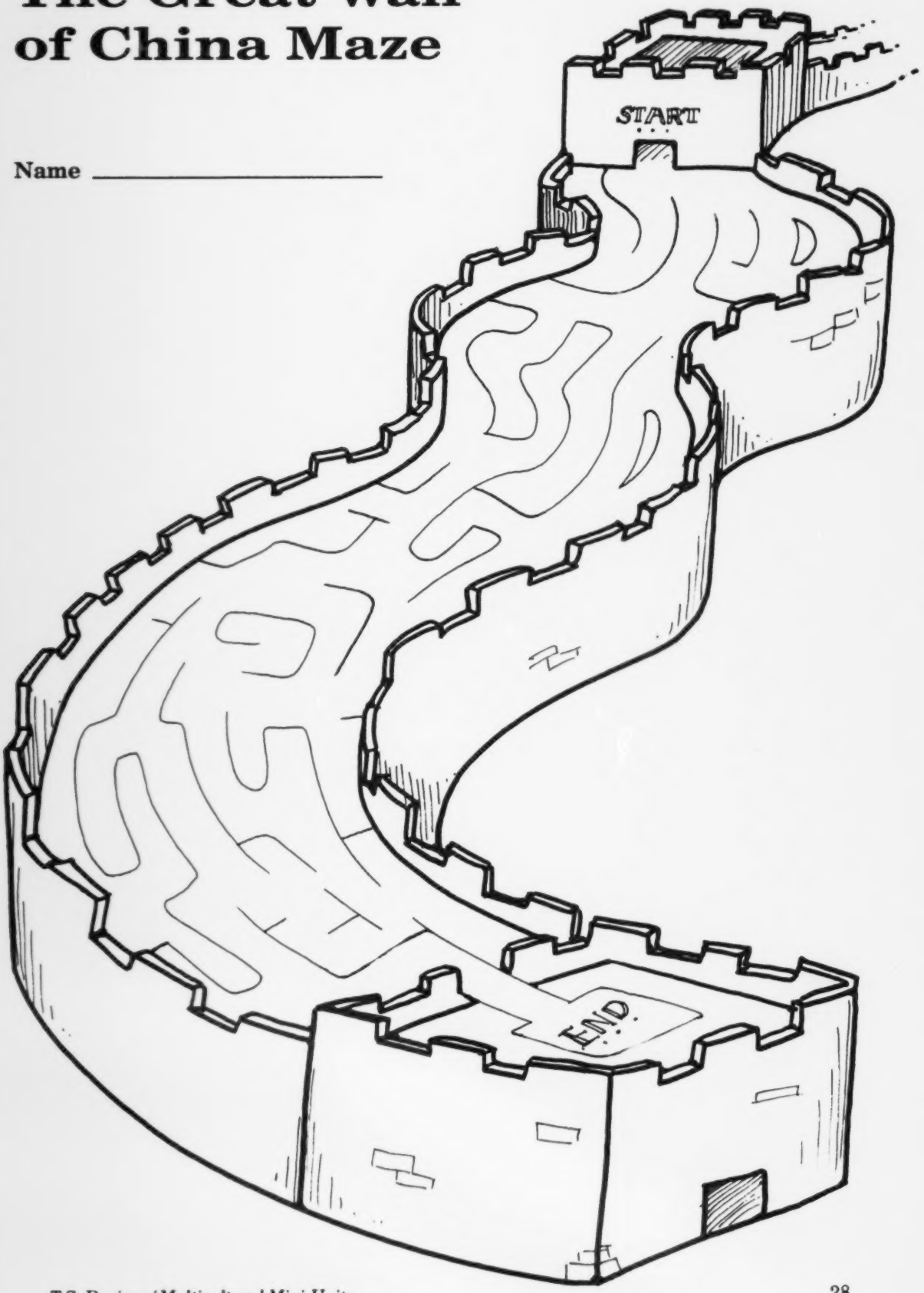
The giant panda is an endangered species. There are only 1,000 remaining in the mountain forests of central and western China. Although the giant panda belongs to a family of meat-eaters, it feeds primarily on bamboo plants. It will eat the shoots and roots of bamboo plants, but prefers the tender bamboo leaves and stems. Although the giant panda loves to eat bamboo, the bamboo passes through the giant panda's digestive system very quickly. The giant panda must eat 12 hours a day in order to receive enough nourishment from the bamboo plants.

Giant pandas are loners. They are only interested in each other for a brief time during the mating season. The female panda gives birth to 1 to 3 tiny cubs. The cubs weigh only 3½ ounces at birth. The baby pandas' bodies are so fragile that usually only one of the cubs will survive. A panda cub is born blind and will not be able to open its eyes to see until it is 6 or 7 weeks old. At 3 months the cub will be able to start following its mother around. The cub will nurse for 6 months and will stay with its mother until it is a year old. A giant panda's life span ranges from 14 to 20 years.

- **Newborn Panda Cubs** – Discover how tiny baby pandas really are. Use a scale and try to find things that weigh 3 to 4 ounces. Make a list of objects that weigh the same as a newborn panda cub.
- **Giant Panda Paintings** – Giant Pandas are the subject of many children's paintings. Paint your own picture of a panda. Frame it on a piece of construction paper.

The Great Wall of China Maze

Name _____



ENGLAND

England is the largest country in Great Britain. Great Britain is a large island. Wales borders England on the east and Scotland borders England on the north. The rest of England is surrounded by water. The English Channel separates England from France. The Irish Sea lies off England's northeast coast and the North Sea lies off England's northwest coast.

England is a beautiful country of lakes, rivers, hills, and plains. The Lake District is located in northern England – a region of lakes and peaks. On England's southeastern peninsula are the famous White Cliffs of Dover. The cliffs look white because they were formed from a chalky soil. The Thames River is the longest river in England. The river runs through London – England's capital city.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Draw a green boat in the Irish Sea.
2. Draw a person swimming in the English Channel.
3. Circle the White Cliffs of Dover.
4. Color the Lake District blue.
5. Color Wales green.
6. Color Scotland red.
7. Draw a purple boat in the North Sea.
8. Trace over the Thames River in blue.

PEOPLE

THE PEOPLE

England is the largest of the four countries in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The other three countries are Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. England has 47 million people living in an area about the size of Alabama.

The English people are descendants of many Europeans – including Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Celts, Danes, and Normans. These people all invaded England at different times in history and settled in England after the wars ended.

Throughout the twentieth century other people from Europe, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong, and the Caribbean have migrated to England. The country is densely populated with ninety percent of the people living in urban areas.

Most English people dress like Canadians and Americans – often with dark, conservative colors and tweed wool fabrics. In the business districts of a large city one can see men wearing bowler hats, carrying umbrellas and a *London Times* tucked under their arms.

- **Derby** – There are two meanings for the word "derby." Look up this word up in an encylopedia and decide which definition comes from the English.

LANGUAGE

People in England and the United States both speak English, although there are some variations of everyday words and dialects.

- **Differences in Common Words** – Say the English version of the word (first word in each group) and have the children guess its meaning.

biro/ballpoint pen	bonnet/car hood	boot/car trunk
braces/suspenders	call box/phone booth	fringe/bangs
jumper/sweater	lift/elevator	lorry/truck
nappy/baby's diaper	petrol/gasoline	plimsoles/tennis shoes
pram/baby carriage	slide/barrette	sweet/piece of candy
torch/flashlight	washbasin/sink	wireless/radio

TRANSPORTATION

The English travel in cars, buses, trucks, and on bicycles just the same as the people in your country. However, they also have some interesting modes of transportation that might be new to the children in your class.

The English Channel is a body of water that separates England from France. Many people travel the English Channel by ***ferry boat***, ***air ferry***, or in a ***hovercraft*** – a vehicle that travels on a cushion of air. Almost two million people a year ride in ***double-decker buses***. They are called "double-decker" because they have a second floor. London has 6,500 buses that travel 175 million miles (280 million kilometers) every year. When people want to travel faster in London they can ride the ***underground*** (subway) or the ***"tube"*** as the English say. This was the first subway system built in the world. It was completed in 1863.

- **Double-Decker Bus** – Draw and color a double-decker bus. Cut out pictures of faces from magazines and glue them in the windows of the bus.

FOOD

English cooking is simple. They enjoy eating meat and potatoes with less seasoning than many other European countries. One of their specialties is "Shepherd's Pie" – mashed potatoes over a mixture of ground beef and mild spices. The English also made famous the term "fish & chips" – fried fish and french fries.

- **Shepherd's Pie** – In a frying pan, cook 8 ounces of ground beef, along with one chopped medium onion, 2 teaspoons of parsley, and bovril or mamrite (similiar to beef bouillon) to taste. Layer the beef mixture in the bottom of a casserole dish and top with mashed potatoes and butter. Cook in 350° oven for a half hour or until hot.

TRADITIONS & PLACES

GOVERNMENT TRADITIONS

To understand some English traditions it is necessary to gain some understanding of England's government. England is a constitutional monarchy. ***Queen Elizabeth II*** is the head of state, but she does not rule the nation. The leaders are the ***ministers*** in the Cabinet that rule along with the ***Prime Minister***. The laws of the government come from the ***Parliament***.

Several interesting traditions come from Parliament. On the ***Opening of Parliament***, the people line the streets to watch the Queen ride to Parliament in a beautiful horse-drawn carriage. Also, on Parliament's opening day, the ***beefeaters*** or ***yeomen*** of the guard (Guards at the Tower of London and ceremonial escorts) search the Parliament cellars for gunpowder. This is done in tradition with ***Guy Fawkes Day***. Guy Fawkes was part of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 which attempted to blow up the English Parliament and King James I. An anonymous letter warned the government, and Fawkes was arrested. To this day, the cellars are searched every year. Children also participate in Guy Fawkes Day by making small dummies called "guys." They use the dolls to collect money by saying, "A penny for the guy." The day ends when the "guy" dolls are burned and people attend fireworks displays.

On one day in June, people line the streets again to watch as the Queen rides her horse and reviews her troops – this is called ***Trooping the Colour.***

- **Guy Fawkes** – Guy Fawkes Day is a reminder of a historical event that people remember through a tradition. Choose a historical event or person from your country's history and plan a tradition. (Betsy Ross, Paul Revere, or even Benedict Arnold might be fun characters to use.)

TEA TIME

The English set aside four o'clock in the afternoon for "tea time." In all parts of the country, rural and urban, people take time to drink tea and eat cakes. Scones are a favorite treat at tea time. Scones are biscuits topped with a thick cream and jam. This is a polite and civilized tradition.

- **Tea Time** – Make scones in your classroom. Purchase or bake biscuits. Top with some whipped cream and strawberry preserves. Serve hot tea. Use this experience to talk about manners and being polite.

STONEHENGE

Stonehenge is an ancient monument in Wiltshire, England. It is a grouping of huge, rough-cut stones. Archaeologists have studied the rocks at Stonehenge and have learned that they date back to around 2,000 B.C. Scientists believe that the people who arranged the rocks at Stonehenge did so to observe the movements of the sun and moon and to enhance religious ceremonies. Some of the rocks used at Stonehenge can only be found in Wales. This means that people had to move the stones over 300 miles to create this monument.

- **Stonehenge** – Find some rocks outside and try to recreate what Stonehenge looks like after looking at a picture or diagram of the real Stonehenge.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

This is the palace in London where the Queen lives. The palace is guarded by men who wear bright red coats and tall bear-skin hats. Every day people come to watch the famous ***Changing of the Guard***. This is when one group of guards marches out to replace the other group of guards. These guards are famous for standing still and not changing their facial expression.

- **Keep a Straight Face** – Play a game with a friend. Stand still and do not change your expression. Let the friend try to make you smile. It is difficult to keep a straight face.

TOWER OF LONDON

The Tower of London consists of twenty towers, originally built around the eleventh century. It has been used as a prison, a palace, and a place for storing weapons. Now used as the place where the Crown Jewels are kept.

- **Make a Crown** – Use construction paper to make a crown. Decorate with glitter, sequins, lace, etc.

FAMOUS ENGLISH PEOPLE (real & fictitious)

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

William Shakespeare is England's most famous playwright and poet. Shakespeare was born in 1564 in a small market-town named Strat-upon-Avon. His parents were upper middle-class. His father was a glove-maker and owned his own shop. Shakespeare was the third of eight children. Shakespeare began school at age seven. At this time children went to school nine hours a day, six days a week. Shakespeare wrote over 37 plays and numerous sonnets. No other writer has ever had his plays produced as many times, nor has been read in so many countries, as William Shakespeare. Plays such as *Hamlet*, *MacBeth*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and *Antony & Cleopatra* are only a few of his works.

- **Read some Shakespeare** – Read the children excerpts of some of Shakespeare's work. Re-tell the children a short version of *Romeo & Juliet*.

BEATLES

Almost everyone has heard of the Beatles – Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison, and Ringo Star. These four young men from Liverpool, England changed rock-and-roll music forever. By 1964 "Beatlemania" swept the world. Their music, hair and clothing styles influenced an entire generation.

- **She Loves You** – Play some of the Beatles music for the children. Take a poll on the children's opinion about the music. Did they like it?

ROBIN HOOD

One of England's most famous legendary heroes, Robin Hood, was an outlaw who lived with his band of "Merry Men" in Sherwood Forest in Nottingham, England. He helped the workers by robbing wealthy travelers going through Sherwood Forest and giving the money to the poor. He was a hero to the common people, and the Sheriff of Nottingham hated him. The members of his merry band were Little John, a large man and second in command; Friar Tuck, a fat priest who had fought in the Crusades; Allen-a-Dale, a minstrel who sang songs about Robin Hood; and Maid Marian, Robin Hood's sweetheart. No one knows for sure if there really was a person named Robin Hood. Some historians believe that he was Robert Fitzooth, the Earl of Huntingdon, who lived from 1160 to 1247. In Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Ivanhoe*, he appears as Robert Locksley. The legend of Robin Hood continues to live on in songs, stories, and movies.

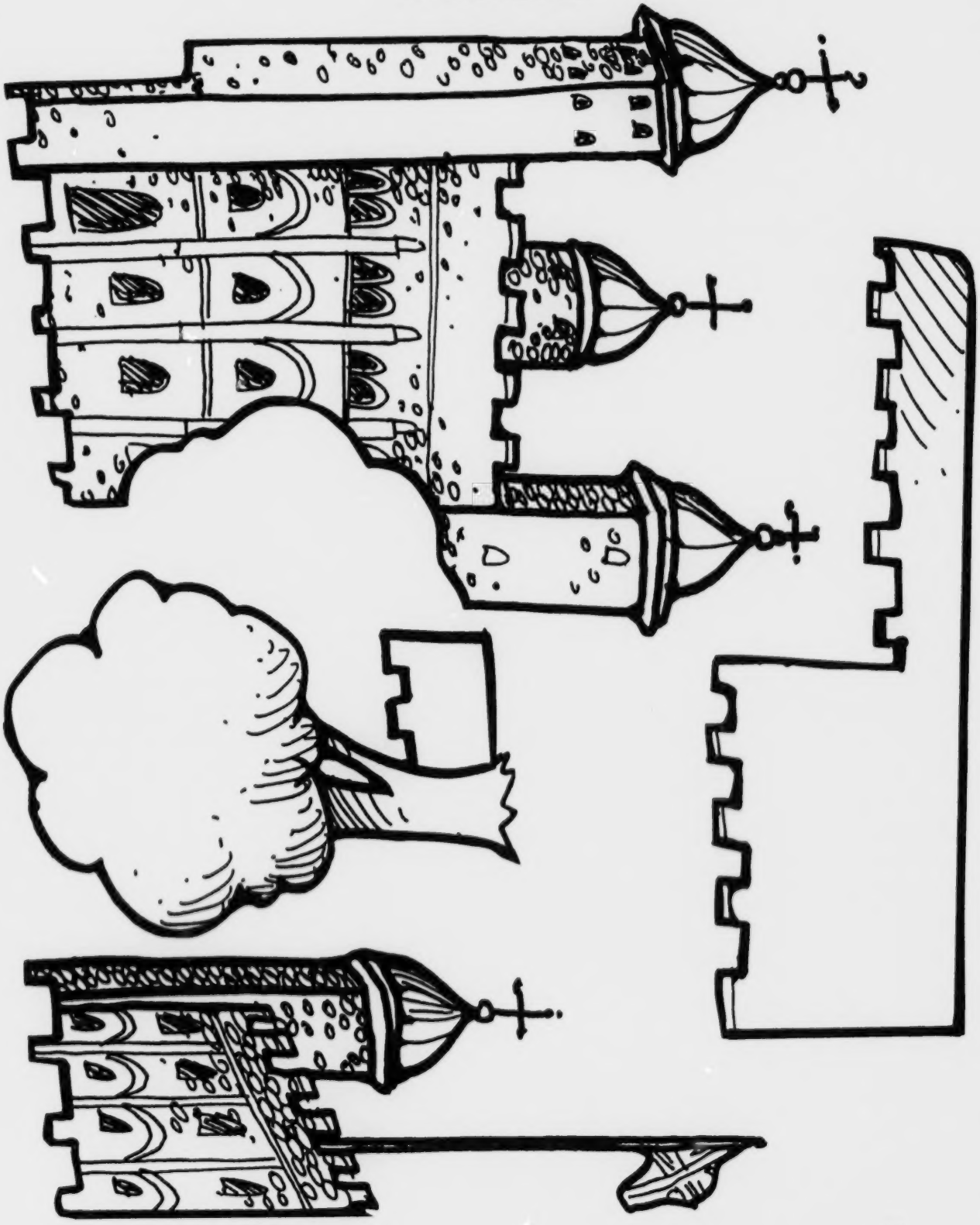
- **Movie Time** – Show the children the Walt Disney version of movie Robin Hood. Although it's an animated film, it does show the good work of Robin Hood and the personalities of the Merry Men.
- **Wanted** – Robin Hood and his men were wanted by the law and the Sheriff of Nottingham. Have the children design WANTED posters of Robin Hood.

KING ARTHUR

No one knows if King Arthur really existed or not. Storytellers for the last thousand years have told the story of young Arthur, who was raised by his uncle and did not know that his father was a king. When Arthur pulled the magic sword, Excalibur, from a stone block, he learned he was the rightful heir to the throne of England and that he would be King of all England. Arthur formed the group of "super knights" who would sit around the round table. No one was at the head of the round table – all were equal.

- **Movie Time** – Watch Walt Disney's movie *The Sword in the Stone*. The children will gain an understanding of the legend of King Arthur.
- **Merlin** – Merlin the Magician was Arthur's instructor. He certainly would have been a fun teacher. Write a big book story about having a teacher that is a magician!

The Tower of London Puzzle



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FRANCE

France is the largest Western European country. Half of France is bordered by water – the English Channel on the northwest, the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Biscay on the west, and the Mediterranean Sea on the southeast. The other side of the country is bordered with mountains that are shared with seven other European neighbors – Belgium and Luxembourg on the northeast; Germany, Switzerland, and Italy on the east; and, Spain and Andorra on the south.

There are many beautiful mountain regions in France. The French Alps and Jura mountains border Italy and Switzerland, the Pyrenees Mountains run along the France-Spain border, and the Ardennes Mountains are found in Belgium.

The Rhine River forms parts of the French border with Germany. This is a main waterway in Europe.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color the Pyrenees Mountains in brown.
2. Color the French Alps in green.
3. Color the Jura Mountains orange.
4. Trace the Loire River in blue.
5. Draw a person swimming in the English Channel.
6. Draw a boat in the Bay of Biscay.

PEOPLE

PEOPLE AND THE LANGUAGE

The French people love their country and call it ***La Belle France*** (beautiful France). The French do not look alike. They have descended from a mixture of people: Scandinavians, Celts, Vikings, and Germanic ancestors who have given some of the French their blonde hair and blue eyes. Other people in France have dark eyes and olive-colored skin because they have descended from ancestors who lived in Mediterranean regions.

One of the things that binds the French people together and gives them their own identity is their beautiful language. French became the official language in 1635 and has been protected by the Académie Française (French Academy) since that time. The French Academy is a group of forty people who set standards for the language. The Academy does not want words from other languages brought into France. Have fun learning some French!

- **Colors**

red	rouge *(roozh)*
green	vert *(vair)*
orange	orange *(o-ronzh)*
yellow	jaune *(zhohn)*
blue	bleu *(bluh)*
purple	violet *(veeh-o-lay)*
black	noir *(nwahr)*
white	blanc *(blon)*
pink	rose *(rohz)*
brown	brun *(bruhn)*

- **Numbers**

one	un *(uhn)*
two	deux *(duh)*
three	trois *(trwah)*
four	quatre *(kah-truh)*
five	cinq *(sank)*
six	six *(seess)*
seven	sept *(seht)*
eight	huit *(weet)*
nine	neuf *(nuhf)*
ten	dix *(deess)*

- **Parts of the Body**

ears	les oreilles *(layz oh-ray)*
mouth	la bouche *(lah boosh)*
nose	le nez *(luh nay)*
eyes	les yeux *(layz yuh)*
shoulders	les épaules *(layz ay-pohl)*
arms	les bras *(lay brah)*
hands	les mains *(lay man)*
legs	les jambes *(lay zhawmb)*
knees	les genoux *(lay zhuh-noo)*
feet	les pieds *(lay p'yay)*
hair	les cheveux *(lay shuh-vuh)*

- **Tête, Épaules, Genoux Et Pieds**

Tête, épaules, genoux et pieds,
genoux et pieds. (répeté)
J'ai deux yeux, un nez, une bouche,
et deux oreilles.
Tête, épaules, genoux et pieds,
genoux et pieds."

"Head And Shoulders, Knees And Toes" is a song most children are familiar with. Start by singing the song slowly, then gradually speed up the pace.

- **Days of the Week**

Monday	lundi *(luhn-dee)*
Tuesday	mardi *(mahr-dee)*
Wednesday	mercredi *(mehr-kruh-dee)*
Thursday	jeudi *(zhuh-dee)*
Friday	vendredi *(von-druh-dee)*
Saturday	samedi *(sahm-dee)*
Sunday	dimanche *(dee-mahnsh)*

SCHOOL

Children in France are required to attend school from age six to sixteen. Many children begin at age two by attending France's tuition-free nursery schools ***(école maternelle)*** and kindergartens ***(classes enfantines)***. From age six to ten, children attend primary schools. At age eleven, children go to a ***Collége d'Enseignement Secondaire.***

French children study hard in school and often have two hours of homework a night. They attend school from 9:00 in the morning until 4:30 in the afternoon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On these long school days the children get an hour and a half for lunch. On Wednesdays and Saturdays they go to school for a half day.

French schools do not have choirs, sports, band, or other extracurricular activities. These special types of programs are organized by the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports. Children may participate in these programs Wednesday afternoons when they are not in school.

- **What Type of School Would You Like?** – What do you think about French education? Would you like to go to school six days a week? Would you like to have Wednesday afternoons off? Design your own school program.

FOOD & FASHION

FRENCH PASTRIES

The French are well known for their delicious foods and the great pride they take in preparing them. The french expression, ***Bon Appétit!*** means "Good Appetite," or "Enjoy your food."

Children in school get a mid-morning break when they eat ***pain chocolat*** (baked bread with chocolate in it).

- **French Mid-Morning Break** – Bake bread at school (frozen dough is the simplest for classroom use). Add chocolate to the dough so you can have a French break and eat ***pain chocolat.***
- **Casse-Crôute** – Prepare a French lunch at school and make casse-crôute. For each child you will need 2 slices of bread, 1 slice of cheese, and, 1 slice of ham. Make the sandwich and ***sauté*** (fry lightly) on both sides in hot butter or oil.
- **Crepes** – You will need: 1 1/2 cups milk, 1 1/2 cups flour, 3 eggs, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoons of melted butter or margarine. Combine all ingredients in a mixer – blend until smooth. Let the batter sit for one hour. Slowly heat a lightly greased 8" skillet. Pour 1/4 cup of the batter into the center of the pan. Tilt the skillet quickly so that the batter spreads evenly over the pan. Use a spatula to lift the crepe from the skillet. Put the crepes on a plate and stack them. Keep covered with a towel. Crepes can be cooked in advance and refrigerated. When ready to serve, pick a topping. French people eat crepes for any meal or dessert. Pick a favorite fruit topping, honey, or syrup. If you really want a treat, place a dab of whipped cream on the top!

CHEESE

French farmers raise cows, sheep, and goats for cheese. Cheese is made from the milk of these animals. The three most famous cheeses in France are Brie, Camembert, and Roquefort.

- **Do You Like Cheese?** – Have a cheese-tasting party. Bring in a variety of cheeses for the children to sample. Chart the children's responses to the cheese. Which did they like best? Which was their least favorite?

WINE

French farmers are experts at growing grapes. Grapes are difficult to grow. They need a lot of attention and just the right amount of sun and rain. The French farmers use the grapes to make wine. Most grapes used in wine-making do not taste very good.

- **Sample Grapes** – Bring the children two different kinds of grape juice to sample – purple grape juice and white grape juice. Let the children sample a variety of grapes: green, red, seedless, and grapes with seeds.

PERFUME

Grasse is a city in France which has become known as the world center of perfume-making. This is where beautiful fields of flowers are grown, such as carnations, violets, and lilies. Perfume is made from the flowers. France has special stores that just sell perfume. These stores are called ***parfumeries***. All the perfumes made in a factory must be approved. The person who smells the perfume to approve it is called a ***nose.***

- **Perfume Factory** – Create a perfume factory in your classroom. Ask each of the parents to donate a small bottle of perfume that is almost empty. Have the children take turns pretending that they are the "nose" of the factory. Sort the perfume by likes/dislikes and by similar smells.
- **Sachet to Bring Home** – A florist may give you old wilted flowers that were going to be thrown away. Hang the flowers upside down and allow them to dry. Pick off the petals and put them in the center of a piece of fabric. Pull up the corners of the fabric and tie with yarn.

FASHION

Fashion design is a big business in France and especially Paris. Some of the world's most famous designers, such as Dior, Chanel, and Givenchy, are located there.

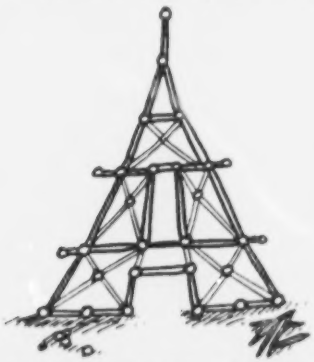
- **Be a Fashion Designer** – Have the children create some clothing designs.
- **Classroom Fashion Show** – Have the children write a description of their favorite outfit. Then have them wear that outfit to school for a fashion show. Read the children's clothing descriptions at the show.

LIVING IN FRANCE

PARIS

Paris is the capital of France and is its largest city. Everyone in France is proud of the city of Paris. Paris is over 2,000 years old and was built on a little island in the middle of the Seine River. As the city grew, buildings were built along the banks of the Seine River. One-sixth of the people in France live in Paris.

There are many wonderful sights to see in Paris. ***The Eiffel Tower*** was built in 1889 for the International Exposition. It stands 984 feet (300 meters) tall. It has restaurants and shops. One can see for 50 miles from the top observation platform. The ***Notre Dame Cathedral*** is ten minutes away from the Eiffel Tower. This cathedral is over 800 years old. The ***Parisian Arc de Triomphe*** (Arch of Triumph) was built to commemorate the victories of Napoeleon. It is the largest arch in the world. A visit to Paris would not be complete without seeing the ***Musée du Louvre*** (Louvre Museum). The Louvre Museum is famous. It houses such works as Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, and the Greek sculpture *Venus de Milo.*



- **Classroom Louvre** – Have each of the children create a painting. Be sure that the children title their work. Hang the paintings throughout your classroom and invite another classroom to come and tour your "art gallery."
- **Build The Eiffel Tower** – Purchase several packages of dry peas. (They are inexpensive.) Soak the peas in water overnight, making sure that the water level is one inch over the peas. Give the children wooden round toothpicks and the peas. Explain to the children that the toothpicks are the rods and the peas are the connectors. When the creation is left overnight, the peas will dry again making the structure strong.

SMALL FRENCH TOWNS

The French family that lives in a small French town is similar to an American or Canadian family, with a few exceptions.

The day begins early with people going to school and work. Women who work at home may go off shopping at a ***supermarchés*** (supermarket), but many women still shop in small speciality shops, such as the ***boucherie*** (meat store), ***pâtisserie*** (bakery), ***charcuterie*** (deli), ***crémier*** (dairy store), ***saucissons*** (sausage store) and ***poissonnerie*** (fish store). The noon meal is the large meal of the day.

La Place (town square) is the center of every village. The fountain in the center of the square used to be used for supplying the town with water. Now it is a place where people meet and enjoy spending time together.

The homes in the village usually have shutters. In some areas of France, all the shutters in a village are the same color.

- **Make a French Home** – Draw and color a French home on a piece of white construction paper. Make shutters from another piece of construction paper. Tape or glue them to the windows of your house so they can open and close.

SPORTS

Bicycle racing is one of the most popular sports in France. Many villages have their own race tracks. The world's largest race, the Tour de France, is held every year in France. The race is 2,500 miles (4,023 kilometers) long.

A popular French game is ***boules***. The game is played on flat ground and is similar to bowling or the Italian game, bocce. Each player throws two large metal boules, one at a time, at a smaller ball called ***le cochonnet*** (the piglet), The boule to land nearest the cochonnet wins.

- **Play Boules** – This is an easy game for children to play. Instead of using metal balls, try playing the game using softballs or baseballs.

GERMANY

Germany is located in the heart of Europe. Because of its location, Germany has many neighbors: the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France border Germany on the west; Switzerland and Austria border Germany on the south; Austria, the Czech Republic, and Poland are on the east; and the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, and Denmark make up Germany's northern borders.

Germany is a beautiful country with a wide variety of landscapes. Forests cover almost a third of Germany. Germany's most famous forest is called the Black Forest. It is located in southwestern Germany. The Black Forest is so-named because it was once so thick that it blocked out nearly all sunlight.

Germany is also a country of hills and mountains. Many of the mountains are small, with the exception of the Alps in southern Germany.

The Rhine River runs through western Germany. The Rhine River begins in Switzerland and flows about 820 miles (1,320 kilometers) through Europe. It eventually empties into the North Sea. Many years ago German nobility built beautiful castles on the cliffs overlooking the Rhine River.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Draw a castle by the Rhine River.
2. Draw and color some trees in the Black Forest.
3. Draw a boat in the Baltic Sea.
4. Trace the Rhine River in blue.
5. Color all of Germany light green.

PEOPLE

A NEW GERMANY

Germany is now one country, but not long ago Germany was divided into two nations. In 1945, World War II ended – Germany's Adolf Hitler had been defeated. The nation of Germany was divided into four territories controlled by the Allies – the Americans, the Soviets, the British, and the French. The four allies agreed to reunite the four regions of Germany a few years after the war had ended. The Soviet government began arguing with the other three allies and took control of a large section of Germany.

The remaining Allies – America, Britian, and France, merged their three regions of Germany together. On May 23, 1949, these sections of Germany became an independent nation, officially known as the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), but better known as West Germany. West Germany was a free nation that held elections to select its political leaders. West Germany prospered and grew after the war.

On October 7, 1949, the Soviet region of Germany officially became known as the German Democratic Republic (GDR) – better known as East Germany. East Germany was now a Communist Bloc Nation – not a democracy. The communist government built the Berlin Wall with the purpose of keeping the East German people inside the walls of East Germany. No one was allowed to leave without permission from the communist government. Many East Germans were unhappy and longed for more freedom.

By 1989, the East German government thought the people would be happier if they were allowed to travel freely to West Germany. It was hoped that if the people thought they could leave freely they would not want to leave. This didn't work. Thousands of people began leaving and protesting for greater changes and more freedoms. On November 9, 1989, the East German government began to tear down the Berlin Wall. On October 3, 1990, East Germany was no more. Now both Germanys have united as the Federal Republic of Germany.

- **A Map of Germany** – Show the children on a map where Germany had been divided. Which side of Germany would the children have liked to live?

THE PEOPLE AND HOME

Most Germans live in towns. It is easy to tell what part of Germany people are from by the way they speak and by the type of home they live in. In large towns and cities most people wear modern style clothes and live in modern apartments or houses. Smaller towns each have their own unique style; in the ***Black Forest*** the farmhouses are made of wood and have steep roofs with a hay loft. Most of the homes have a balcony. In ***northern Germany*** the homes are made of brick and have thatched roofs. The barn is attached to the side of the house. Farmhouses in the ***Alps*** are made of stone and wood. Stones are placed on the roof to keep the house warm and to keep the roof tiles from blowing away during strong winds.

Germans tend to have small families. (Germany has one of the lowest birth rates in the world.) They teach their children respect and to care about their homes.

- **A Home in the Alps** – Draw a home in the Alps made of stone and wood with stones on the roof.

SCHOOL

Kindergarten is a German word. Kindergarten is not required but most children attend. ***Grundschule*** (primary school) lasts four years for children ages six to ten. At age ten, children and parents can choose between three different kinds of education: 1) ***Hauptschule*** prepares children for working. This kind of education lasts five years. 2)***Realschule*** is a six-year program in which one earns a degree. It is educational and vocational. 3) ***Gymnasium*** is a nine-year program in which students specialize in a specific area. A fourth school, ***Gesamtschule***, combines the ideas of the other three programs and allows students the time to make a final decision about their educational and career choices.

- **What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?** – By age ten, German children often begin to make career choices. Have you thought about what you want to be when you grow up? Write a short paragraph about your career choice.

FOOD AND FUN

CUCKOO CLOCK

Cuckoo clocks were first invented in the villages of the Black Forest by a man named Franz Kletterer. The time is announced by a cuckoo bird. Years ago the clocks were made by hand out of wood. Today they are manufactured in factories.

- **My Own Cuckoo Clock** – Ask the children to bring a half-gallon milk carton to school. Cover the milk carton with brown construction paper. Reproduce the pattern found on page 42. Have the children color and cut out the clock. Cut on the dotted lines so that the doors will open. Color and cut out the cuckoo. Glue the clock to the front of the milk carton (do not glue the doors to the carton). Bend the doors back and glue the cuckoo bird to the milk carton behind the doors.

PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

"The Pied Piper of Hamelin" is an old folk tale with a basis in history. Hundreds of years ago German children marched against the Muslims in the Children's March in the Holy Land. None of the children ever returned – just like the children in the story of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin."

Every summer in Hamelin, Germany, the story is re-enacted.

- **Read the Story of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin"** – Read the story to the class. After the children are familiar with the story let them act it out, just like the festival in Hamelin, Germany.
- **Who Likes The Ending?** – After reading "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," have the children come up with new endings for the story. What did happen to the children? Maybe they came home by sliding down a rainbow or flying in on huge white doves. Rewrite the story as a class and turn it into a big book experience that the children can share with other classes. Have cooperative learning groups illustrate the pages of your new version of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin."

GERMAN CHRISTMAS

The Germans were the first to decorate evergreen trees. This German tradition has spread throughout the world. The Christmas season begins November 11 – on St. Martin's Day. On St. Martin's Eve the children carry lanterns through the town. People exchange presents. This day honors the legend of a soldier who gave away his cloak to a beggar – the beggar was believed to be Christ. December 6 is St. Nicholas Eve. St. Nicholas collects lists from children telling what gifts they would like to receive. ***Weihnachtsmann*** (Christmas Man) delivers the gifts on Christmas Eve.

SCHUHPLATTLER

This is a wonderful German dance in which men slap their leather pants as they move about. Their traditional costumes are called ***lederhosen***. They are leather knee-length pants held up with suspenders. Knee-high socks and white shirts are usually worn with lederhosen. This is the traditional dress of Bavaria – but now is only worn during festivals.

- **Rhythms** – Play a record and have the children slap out the rhythm on their thighs.
- **Lederhosen** – Have the children draw a lederhosen outfit. (There is often embroidery on the suspenders and around the waist.)

GERMAN FOOD

Frankfurters, sauerkraut, bratwurst, and sausage are all foods that we think of when we think of Germany. The Germans usually eat bread, jam, coffee, and a soft-boiled egg for breakfast. Lunch is the largest meal of the day consisting of pork, vegetables and potatoes. Dinner is cheese, bread, and cold meats. Dumplings are a favorite food of the German people. Here is a fun recipe:

- **Spaetzle** – You will need: 4 1/2 cups sifted flour, 2 teaspoons salt, 4 eggs, milk, 1/2 cup butter, and paprika. Sift flour and salt into bowl. Break eggs into a 2-cup measure (beat with fork), add enough milk so that the mixture measure 2 cups. Pour over flour mixture – beat with spoon until dough is smooth, yet stiff. Cook 1/4 of the dumplings at a time. Scoop small spoonfuls of dough and drop into a kettle of boiling water. Cook uncovered 5 minutes or until tender. Lift out. Drizzle with melted butter. Top with paprika.

MUSIC AND STORIES

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685–1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in the town of Eisenach, Germany. Bach's father taught him to play the violin. When he was ten years old, his mother and father died. He went to live with his brother – an organist. Bach took lessons from his brother on the clavier. One day, Bach saw his brother bring home a large book of church music. Bach took the book and copied, by the light of the moon, each note of music into his own notebook. When he was fifteen years old, Bach left his brother's. He walked 200 miles to attend St. Michael's School. He continued to study the violin, clavier, and harpsichord, but it was the organ he loved. When Bach was eighteen years old, he became a church organist. It was then that he pledged to write music in honor of God. All his music bore the heading "in the name of the Lord" or "to the glory of God alone." In 1717, his fame as a composer and organist was renowned throughout Germany. The many years of overstraining his eyes in poor light while writing music caused Bach to become blind in 1949. A year later, Bach died of a stroke.

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany. When he was only four years old Ludwig's father began instructing him. Ludwig studied violin, piano, and composition. Beethoven had the opportunity to play for Mozart, who was very impressed by Beethoven's ability to improvise. Mozart supposedly said, "Someday he will give the world something worth listening to." Beethoven's greatest productivity occurred between the years 1795 and 1815. He composed eight of his nine symphonies; twenty-seven of his thirty-two sonatas for piano and violin; eleven of his sixteen quartets; his only opera, *Fidelio*; and several masses. Sadly, at the time of his last public concert for the Vienna Congress in 1815, Beethoven was nearly deaf. Beethoven courageously continued to compose music with sounds he could only hear in his own mind. Some of his greatest compositions were produced when he was completely deaf.

JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833–1897)

Johannes Brahms was born in Hamburg, Germany. His father taught his son the elements of music when Johannes was six. Johannes began to study the piano. When he was thirteen years old, Johannes had to help his poor parents with the family income. He earned his living by playing the piano in dockside taverns on the Hamburg waterfront. When he was seventeen years old he met the famous musician Robert Schumann. Brahms began a lasting friendship with Robert Schumann and his wife, Clara, a famous pianist as well. Even after Schumann's death Brahms remained a friend to Clara Schumann. Most of Brahms' great music was written later in his life. He was forty-three years old when his first symphony was completed. Many speculated Brahms was in love with Clara Schumann. When Brahms learned of Clara's death in 1896, he hurried to Frankfurt, Germany, to attend her funeral. Angry because he had trouble catching his train, Brahms became very ill. He believed that his burst of anger at missing his train had ruined his health. He never recovered from his illness and he died in Vienna on April 3, 1897.

- **Famous German Musicians** – Three of the world's most famous musicians were from Germany. Listen to their music. Which is your favorite? Close your eyes and pretend that you are blind like Bach. Sit very quietly and try to remember what the music sounds like - just like Beethoven. Brahms used to study music all day long as a child. What subject could you study all day long? Make a bulletin board dedicated to the music of these three famous Germans.

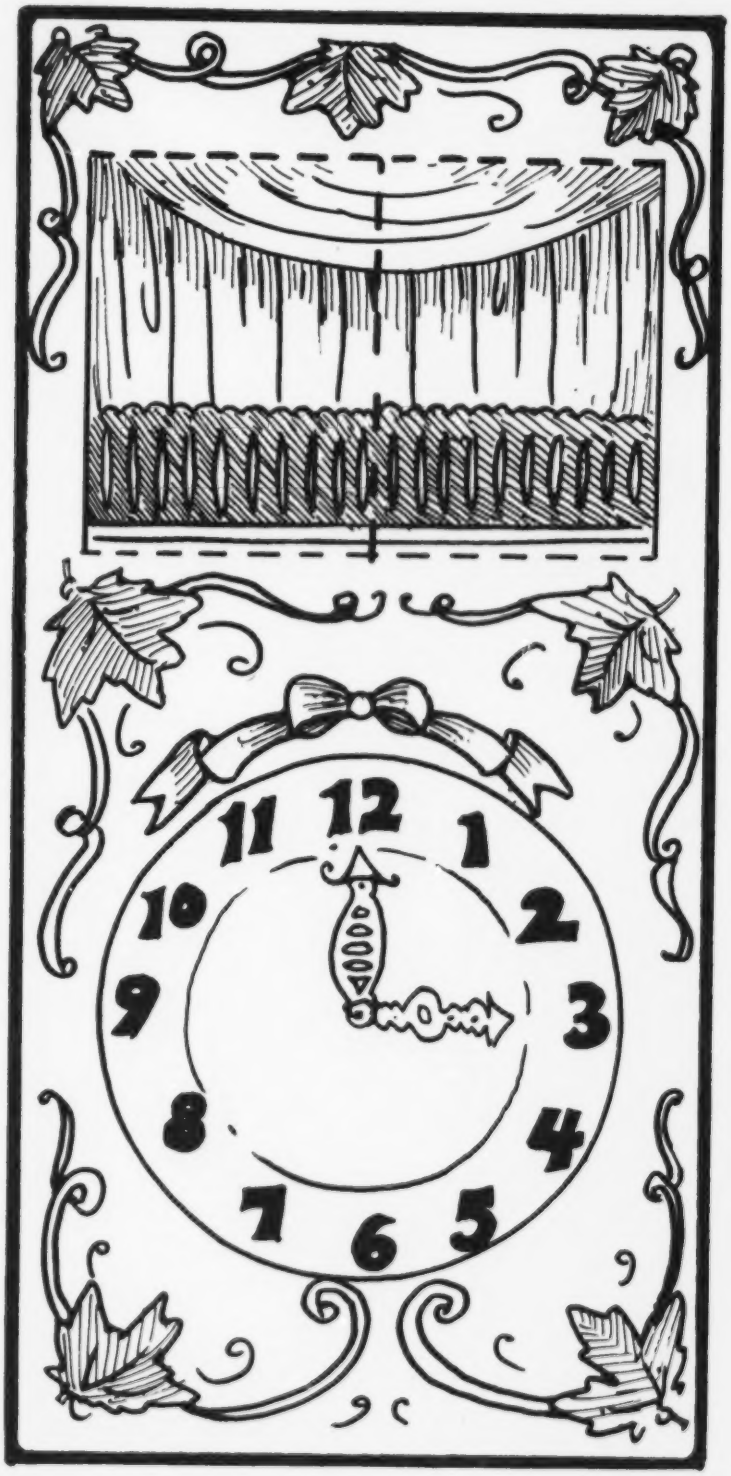
JACOB AND WILHELM GRIMM

The Brothers Grimm were German authors who collected and retold many wonderful children's stories. Some of their famous works included: Sleeping Beauty, Hansel and Gretel, Snow White, Rumpelstiltskin, and Cinderella,

- **A Study of Fairy Tales** – Spend a week studying the stories of the Brothers Grimm. Choose a story or two a day. Provide the children with pre and post reading activities. Build vocabulary lists on the blackboard with new words discovered in the stories. Illustrate favorite parts of the stories. Tape-record the stories so the children can listen to them or follow along in a book.

Cuckoo Clock

Cover a half-gallon milk carton with brown construction paper. Color and cut out the clock. Cut on the dotted lines so that the doors will open. Color and cut out the cuckoo. Glue the clock to the front of the milk carton (do not glue the doors to the carton). Bend the doors back and glue the cuckoo to the milk carton behind the doors. Add rope and pinecones at the bottom for an authentic look.



GREECE

Greece is a small country in Europe, that consists of mainland Greece, a large peninsula called the Peloponnesus, and the Greek Islands.

Mainland Greece is bordered by the countries of Albania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Most of Greece is mountainous. An old Greek legend explains that when God was making the world he sifted the earth through a strainer. As He made country after country with good soil, He threw away the stones left in the strainer and these stones became Greece.

On the southern tip of mainland Greece is a large peninsula. This peninsula is called the **Peloponnesus**, and extends into the Mediterranean Sea. A canal was dug so ships could go through the Gulf of Corinth instead of having to sail all the way around the large peninsula.

There are thousands of Greek Islands. The **Ionian Islands** are in the Ionian Sea. The **Aegean Islands** are in the Aegean Sea. The largest Greek Island is **Crete,** which is located in the Mediterranean Sea.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color mainland Greece red.
2. Color the Peloponnesus Peninsula blue.
3. Color the Ionian Islands orange.
4. Color the Aegean Islands yellow.
5. Color Crete blue.

ANCIENT GREECE

WHY THE GREEKS WERE GREAT

Over 2,000 years ago Greece became the birthplace of democracy. The Greek civilization was the first to believe that all citizens should take part in their government. The Greek civilization was far more advanced than any other civilization had ever been. They were the first people to study botany, geometry, medicine, physics, and zoology. They were the first people to be great historians, actors, philosophers, and poets. *(Define these terms for the children.)*

- **What Will You Study?** – What do you want to be when you grow up? Draw a picture of yourself performing a career of your choice. Write a few sentences telling what you would have to study to learn your job.

CITY-STATES

The Ancient Greeks lived in communities called city-states. The city-states fought and argued with each other constantly. Each city-state believed it was the best. The Greek's pride in their own city-state kept them from uniting into a strong country.

- **The City-State of Sparta**

Sparta was a military society. The goal of the government was to train good soldiers. When a boy turned seven he was taken from his family and sent to an Army Training Camp where he lived until he was thirty years old. Boys exercised and were in excellent physical shape. Only a few boys learned to read and write. Girls were taught to raise children and run the household.

The upper class people could only be males born in Sparta. The middle class were foreign-born merchants living in the city-state. The lower class were slaves called Helots – prisoners from the Spartan wars. They worked for the Spartans.

- **The City-State of Athens**

Athens was very different from Sparta. Democratic government began in Athens. All the citizens belonged to the Assembly and talked about the laws passed. A smaller group of citizens, called the Council of Five Hundred, were chosen by a lottery to carry out the laws. Athenians believed their city-state would be the strongest if boys developed their talents. Boys studied arithmetic, literature, writing, music, physical education, and learned about the government.

- **Where Would You Want to Live?** – Would you have preferred to live in Sparta or Athens? Make a chart listing the differences between the two city-states.

DAILY LIFE

People led simple lives. Their day began at sunrise when craftsmen would work in their shops, women did household chores, and businessmen would meet at the ***agora*** – the public meeting place. They ate two meals a day – a mid-morning breakfast ***(ariston)*** which consisted of beans or peas and a roasted turnip or raw onion. At sunset their day was over and they ate their main meal – usually a little fish or meat, bread, cheese, olives, and figs.

- **Olives and Figs** – Today olives and figs are still grown in large quantities in Greece. Have a fig and olive tasting experience.

HOMES

The homes were built of stone or mud brick and covered with stucco. A courtyard was the center of the home. On one side of the home was a roofed hall called a ***pasta***. Small rooms were built on the other three sides and opened into the courtyard.

- **A Greek Home** – Draw a picture of a Greek home.

CLOTHING

Both Greek men and women wore a robe-like garment called a ***chiton***. It was made by sewing two rectangles of cloth together and leaving holes for the head and arms. A cord or rope was tied around the waist. They sometimes wore an over-mantle called a ***himation***, which was a plain oblong piece of wool cloth with decorated borders.

- **Dressing Greek Style** – Using butcher paper, make a chiton to wear.

ANCIENT GREECE

GODS AND GODDESSES

The Greeks believed in and worshipped many gods. It was their way to explain things they did not understand, such as how the earth was made.

Zeus was the supreme god and reigned over the earth in his home on Mt. Olympus. He made his wife, ***Hera***, jealous by falling in love with many mortal women. Zeus' son ***Apollo*** was the sun-god; and Apollo's twin sister, ***Artemis***, was the goddess of the moon. Zeus' son ***Hermes*** was the messenger of the gods. Hermes could travel down from Olympus to earth and to the seas, ruled by Zeus' brother ***Poseidon***; and to the underworld of the dead, ruled by Zeus' other brother, ***Hades***. The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses looked human, but were much larger and more powerful.

- **Zeus** – Draw a picture of Zeus sitting up on Mt. Olympus.
- **Greek Mythology** – Share some of the tales from Greek mythology with your class. Read the story first and learn it so you can "tell" it to your class. Some parts of the Greek myths are not appropriate for younger children. When you learn the myth, tell it in a version that would be appropriate for your children. *Hercules* and *Jason and the Argonaunts* are fun stories.

ZEUS AND THE OLYMPICS

According to Greek legend, Zeus hurled down a bolt of lightning to show the Greeks the place on earth where he wanted to be honored. An altar and pyre (platform where something is burned) were built for Zeus. The Greeks held a race to decide who was going to get to light the fire on the pyre. This is how the Olympics began. In 776 B.C. athletic games were held at Olympia. Everything came to a stop during the games. The games took place every four years for 1,170 years. When Rome came into power they stopped the games.

In 1896, the first modern Olympics took place in Athens.

- **Prepare a Classroom Olympics Day** – Run a race to decide who will be the child to light the pretend torch. Organize events. Make gold, silver, and bronze medals to award the children at the ceremonies. Organize your Olympics so every child wins a medal.

FAMOUS SITES IN ATHENS

The Acropolis – The word "acropolis" means uppermost city. Every important Greek city-state had an acropolis. An acropolis was built on the highest point of a city where the people had their temples, treasures, and other important civic buildings. The acropolis was the part of the city that was the safest from enemy attack and the easiest to defend. Today in Athens one can still see the ruins of the most famous acropolis.

The Parthenon – was the largest building constructed during 447 - 438 B.C. on the Athenian Acropolis. It was a temple built for Athena, the goddess of war. It is a huge building made entirely of white marble and surrounded with columns.

Theater of Dionnysus – The Greeks loved words, plays, poetry, and oratory. They built open-air theaters with rising rows of seats. The Theater of Dionnysus (the god of wine and wild behavior) is the Athenian theater built below the Acropolis. During a Greek play a chorus of men would sometimes chant the story while the actors performed.

- **Greek Theater in the Classroom** – Find a simple story that a group can read together (choral reading) while another group of children act out the story.

GREEK ART

The Greek painters were the most famous of the Greek artisans, but all their great paintings have perished. The paintings on vases are the only paintings that remain. The sculpted and painted vases were made by craftsmen and not famous artists. These vases are so beautiful that it's hard to believe that the craftsmen's skill was so refined. Most of the pottery vases are painted with black paint on a background of red pottery. This style of pottery became famous throughout Greece.

- **Red and Black Pottery** – Cut out a vase shape from a piece of red construction paper. Using black paint, paint a historical Greek event or look at pictures in a book of Greek pottery and try to recreate the picture.

GREECE TODAY

EARNING A LIVING

Farming – Although Greece is a dry and hot country with very little fertile soil, it produces enough food to feed its people. Greeks grow cotton, tobacco, vegetables, grains, grapes, and are one of the leading producers of lemons and olives.

Tourism – Tourism is one of Greece's most important industries. People from all over the world come to learn about Greek history and see Greece's beautiful historical ruins. Ninety-five percent of the tourists go to Athens to see the Acropolis.

- **Travel Poster** – Have the children make a travel poster advertising why it would be fun to visit Greece.

SCHOOL

Greek children begin school at the age of six and attend ***demotilo*** – the elementary school- through the sixth grade. The next three grades are spent at the ***gymnacio*** – the middle school. Children may go on to high school only if they pass a special test. People who qualify for college attend without any costs. More than ninety percent of the people in Greece can read and write. The people in ancient Greece designed the first alphabet which was the basis of all the major European languages.

- **Learn Some Greek Words** – (Greek words with the English spelling.)

antropos/man	cosmos/world	meter/mother
biblion/book	philos/friend	pater/father

- **Aesop's Fables** – Read some of Aesop's Fables. Aesop was believed to be a Greek slave that lived around 600 B.C. His tales were handed down orally from generation to generation. About 300 B.C. an Athenian politician named Demetrius Phalereus collected 200 of these fables and titled the collection, *Assemblies of Aesopic Tales.* These tales are still included as part of today's literature for children.

CLOTHING

It is an old Greek custom to wear black clothing to show respect for dead relatives. Many people in Greece wear black clothing all the time. During holidays some people in Greece wear national costumes. The women wear long, brightly colored skirts and white blouses. The men wear braided jackets, wool tights, and pleated kilts.

- **A National Costume** – Design a new national costume for your country. Make it festive and fancy!

FOOD

The Greeks eat more lamb than any other type of meat. They also eat a lot of seafood that is caught from the Mediterranean Sea.

- **Braided Breads** – Breads are an important part of holidays in Greece. Braided breads are used at many different occasions. For classroom use, purchase frozen bread dough. Follow the directions on the package for thawing the dough. Pull the dough apart and roll into three long rolls. Braid the dough just like you would braid hair. Place in a bread pan and bake according to package directions.
- **Yogurt Milkshakes** – 1 cup of yogurt, 1 cup cold milk, 2 tablespoons of sugar or artifical sweetener, and 1 cup or more of mashed fruit (strawberries, peaches, pineapple, bananas, blueberries, etc.) Blend all the ingredients in a blender.
- **Traditional Greek Salad** – 1/2 head lettuce; 1 cut clove of garlic (rub bowl with garlic - do not put in salad); 1 cucumber; 2 tomatoes; 3 green onions; green pepper; Greek black olives; sprinkle dried oregano, parsley, dill, fennel, mint. Mix together. For a dressing: 1 part lemon juice to 2 parts olive oil. Garnish with 1/2 cup feta cheese.

INDIA

India is a large country in southern Asia. It is on the opposite side of the world from the United States. Some of the world's largest mountains are found in northern India. These mountains are part of the Himalaya Mountains. The word *himalaya* means "home of snow." The snow on the highest peaks never melts. To the north, beyond the mountains, is Nepal and China. To the northwest, over the Thar Desert, is Pakistan.

The Arabian Sea borders India's west coast; the Bay of Bengal borders India's east coast; and, the southern tip of India's peninsula extends into the Indian Ocean.

India has three seasons. During the months of March, April, and May the weather is hot. June through October is the rainy season. Some parts of India receive over 200 inches of rain each year. November, December, January, and February are the cold months in northern India, while southern India remains fairly warm during the day but can get chilly at night.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color the Thar Desert yellow.
2. Color the Himalayas brown.
3. Draw a boat in the Indian Ocean.
4. Draw a fish in the Bay of Bengal.
5. Color the rest of India green.

PEOPLE

LANGUAGE

India has one the world's most diverse populations. Most of the major races are represented there. Fifteen major Indian languages are spoken, along with over 200 different languages throughout the country. Until 1965, English had been the official language. Since 1965, Hindi, which is spoken by one-third of the people in India, is the official language.

- **Learn Some Words in Hindi –**

mother	mata	wed	wadha (promise)
father	pita	nose	hak
brother	bhai	lip	lubh
man	manav	cow	gow
wind	mun	door	dwar

CLOTHING

Clothing differs greatly from state to state in India. In the cities, middle-class men wear western style clothing to work. In the country, farmers wrap a piece of white fabric called a ***dhoti*** around their waist and between their legs. The weather is so hot that farmers find wearing a dhoti more comfortable. Men in the north wear baggy cotton pants and knee-length skirts. Many Indian men wear some type of turban on their heads.

Indian women also have a variety of clothing. Some women wear baggy pants with a knee-length skirt called a ***kameez***, and a long scarf over their shoulders. Most Indian women wear some form of ***sari***. A basic sari consists of six yards of fabric that is wrapped around the waist and over the shoulder. Girls often put a little round dot, called a ***bindi***, in the middle of their foreheads. Girls often change the color of their bindi to match their clothes.

- **Dress Indian Style** – Ask parents to donate old sheets. Rip them into long strips. Let the boys experiment with wrapping turbans, and the girls can experiment with wrapping a sari. The girls may also want to add a bindi.

FOOD

Most Indians are vegetarians. People who are of the Hindu faith do not eat beef (cows are considered holy animals). People of the Muslim faith do not eat pork. Most northern Indians eat some form of ***rati*** at least once a day. Rati is a pancake-like bread. A very common rati is ***chappattis***. Here is a simple recipe you can try in your classroom:

- **Chappattis** – Mix 2 cups whole wheat flour and 1/2 teaspoon salt in a bowl. Add 2 tablespoons melted butter and 3/4 cups water. Mix. If the dough is too dry, add a little more water. The dough should be stiff. Knead the dough for five minutes, by pushing it down and folding it over. Cover with a damp cloth and let sit for one hour. Uncover – knead another two minutes. Roll into golf ball-sized balls. Press 1/4 inch flat. Flour each side of the flat dough.

After cooking the chappattis two minutes on each side in a hot skillet, brush melted butter on the skillet and lightly brown each side. Eat hot! People in India often dip the chappattis into different curries and sauces.

FARMING

Seven out of ten people in India earn their living by farming. Most farming is done on the north Indian plains and the low coastal lands. Rice is the main crop grown in areas where it rains often. Rice is grown in flooded lands called ***paddys***. Other crops grown in India are coconut, ginger, wheat, barley, sugarcane, cotton, and peanuts.

India produces more tea than any other country in the world. There are large tea plantations at the foothills of the Himalayas near the city of Darjeeling.

- **Would You Like a Cup of Tea?** – Sample some different teas. (Children usually like cinnamon tea the best.) Have you ever heard of Darjeeling tea? Now you know where it comes from.

GAMES & CELEBRATIONS

GAMES THAT CHILDREN PLAY

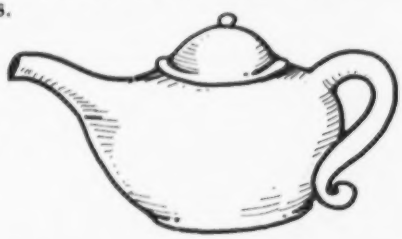
Indian children play many of the same games that American children play: field hockey, basketball, soccer, and volleyball. Physical education is very important and all children actively participate in exercise and sports. Here are some Indian games for the children to learn:

- **Kho** – Children are divided into two teams. Team 1 sits in a line with every other child facing the opposite direction. Team 2 children run all around. One of the runners on Team 2 touches one of the sitters on Team 1 and yells, "kho!" The sitter jumps up and chases the Team 2 runners. Anyone on Team 2 that the Team 1 child touches is out of the game. The Team 1 sitter who was chosen to run can also touch another Team 1 sitter with a "kho." That child can then get up and help the first Team 1 child run around and try to touch the Team 2 runners. The game goes on until all Team 2 players are out.
- **Gitta** – Gitta is a game similar to the game of jacks. Gitta is played with small stones. Five stones are thrown on the ground. One stone is tossed in the air. The child must pick up a stone on the ground and catch the stone in the air before it hits the ground. On the next turn, the child must pick up two stones off the ground before the stone in the air hits the ground. The game is finished when all five stones are picked up in one turn.

DIWALI

Diwali is celebrated in October or November. It is a day where Hindus celebrate Rama's (hero of a Hindu story poem) return from exile after having defeated a demon king. On Diwali Day, the entire family wakes up early, has breakfast, and then says morning prayers. Homes are decorated and hundreds of little oil-filled lamps are placed in rows along window ledges and walls. (Diwali means "rows of lamps.") At night the lamps are lit. It is believed the Lakshmi (Hindu goddess of wealth and beauty) will bless a home lit with the lamps.

- **Tissue Paper Flowers** – Make tissue paper flowers from 4" squares of colored tissue paper and a green pipe cleaner. Push the tissue paper squares onto the pipe cleaner one at a time. When there are six or seven pieces of tissue on the pipe cleaner, take one paper at a time and push upward, starting with the paper on top. The flowers will look like carnations. Reinforce the flower with a small piece of tape directly below the flower. Add construction paper leaves.
- **Oil Lamps** – Make oil lamps from yellow construction paper. Enlarge the pattern found next to the right of this activity. Reproduce on yellow construction paper. Have the children cut out the lamp and add red tissue paper flames. Line the windows and walls with these lamps.



WEDDINGS

Many boys and girls in India do not choose who they will marry. Many marriages are still arranged by the family. People from India believe that marriage should last a lifetime and that the decision of who to marry is so important that the background and reputation of the entire family should be considered.

The wedding takes place at the bride's home. The bride usually wears red (the color of joy). The groom, dressed like a warrior, rides to the bride's home on a beautiful decorated horse. The families greet each other. The bride and groom put a garland around each other's neck and are married under a canopy of flowers. In India, not only are the bride and groom married, but two families are joined together.

- **Garland of Flowers** – Make a garland of flowers by stringing macaroni and construction paper flower cut-outs. Use the illustration as an example.

IN THE CITY

CRAFTS

The making and selling of crafts is important for the people of India because it provides farmers with employment during the seasons when farming is not possible. Handicrafts allow people who are unemployed to earn an income.

One of the largest and most popular craft industries is weaving fabric. Many craft workers spin cotton and wool into fabric and then dye it using a variety of bright beautiful colors. The fabric is used to make thousands of rugs, blankets, and shawls.

There are many other kinds of crafts in India: pottery, wood carving, and jewelry-making. The government realizes how important handicrafts are to the Indian people because of the employment the crafts provides. The government helps buy materials and then sends teachers to help the people improve their skills.

- **Tie-Dye T-Shirts** – The fabrics in India are dyed bright colors. Provide your children with the experience of dying fabric. Ask the children to bring a white t-shirt or white socks to school. Follow the directions on the package of dye. The children should tie their t-shirts following the illustration. Dip different parts of the shirts in different colors. When the children remove the ties from the shirts they will be amazed at the beautiful designs they have created.

- **Jewelry and Pottery Creations** – Use the following recipe to create jewelry and pottery in your classroom. You will need: 1 cup cornstarch, 1½ cups flour, 1 cup salt, and food coloring. Mix thoroughly in a bowl. Slowly add warm water until a stiff dough is formed. Dry flour can be dusted on to prevent stickiness while modeling. (Food coloring may be added while the dough is being mixed.) Long rolls can be cut and made into beads. Many forms of jewelry and sculpture can be made from this material.

TRANSPORTATION

In the large cities of India, people ride buses, trucks, and bicycles. There are not many cars because most people cannot afford a car.

People in India have some interesting forms of transportation that children in your classroom may not be familiar with. ***Pedicabs*** are seen throughout cities in India. A pedicab is a small three-wheeled vehicle that is pedaled like a bicycle. A pedicab transports people or packages.

Thousands of years ago people traveled in carts pulled by oxen. Today in India, people can still be seen riding in ***two-wheeled ox-carts***.

In the countryside, ***elephants*** are used instead of trucks for transporting heavy loads.

In the desert areas of India, ***camels*** are ridden and used for transporting loads.

- **Make a List** – Make a list of all the kinds of Indian transportation. Take a vote on the children's favorite.

- **Bulletin Board** – Cover a bulletin board with white paper. Draw a city street in India. Have the children make construction paper Indian transportation vehicles and animals. Display all the means of transportation on the Indian street. This is a fun way for the children to visualize the different forms of Indian transportation.

TAJ MAHAL

In the city of Agra is the famous Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Emperor Shah Jahan, who ruled India in the 1600's, built the Taj Mahal. Shah Jahan had a wife named Mumtaz Mahal who he loved very much. Shah Jahan was heartbroken when his wife died. In her memory he wanted to build her the most beautiful monument in the world. The Taj Mahal is that monument.

It took twenty two years and over 20,000 workers to build the Taj Mahal. Each stone was set by hand. Both the Emperor and his wife's tombs are inside the Taj Mahal.

- **Draw The Taj Mahal** – Look at a photograph of the Taj Mahal. Using only a white piece of paper and a pencil, try to draw the Taj Mahal.

ISRAEL

Israel is a country that forms a land bridge connecting the continents of Asia and Africa.

Israel is bordered on the north by the country of Lebanon. Syria and Jordan are the countries to the east. Egypt borders Israel to the southwest. The Mediterranean Sea is on Israel's west coast.

Throughout history Israel has been ruled by many different peoples and nations because of its location. Israel has sought to increase its borders and, consequently, some of the land outside these boundaries is in dispute between Israel and its neighbors. These areas include the Gaza Strip along the Mediterranean Sea, the West Bank of the Jordan River, and the Golan Heights on Israel's northeastern border.

– – – – disputed territories

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

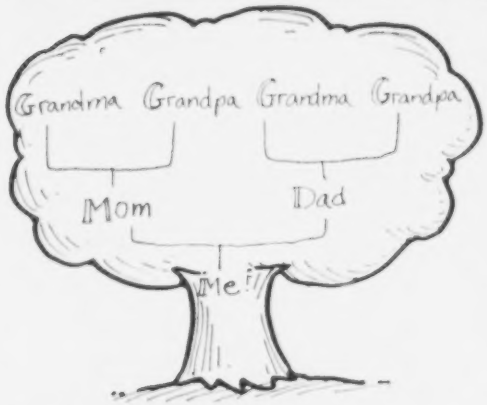
1. Color the Asian countries of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon green.
2. Color Israel orange.
3. Color the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee blue.
4. Draw a ship in the Mediterranean Sea.
5. Color the disputed lands brown – the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights.
6. Color the African country of Egypt purple.

PEOPLE

THE JEWISH PEOPLE

The word "Jewish" has two meanings. It can be used to describe both a nation and a religion. The state of Israel is the homeland of the Jewish Nation. The Jewish religion does not control the government of the Jewish State of Israel.

Israel began when Abraham came to this land that God had promised him. This story is important to Israel because God had made a covenant with Abraham, in which God gave Abraham and his descendants the land in return for their obedience. Abraham had two sons – Ishmael and Isaac. Isaac's son, named Jacob, was called Israel. Jacob (Israel) named a tribe for each of his twelve sons. They became known as the twelve tribes of Israel. People from Jacob's son Judah became known as the Jews, and the area that they lived in was called Judea. The land of Judea later became known as Israel (Jacob's name). Although the word "Jew" came from "Judah," it is also used to describe all the people who descended from the twelve tribes.



Ten of Jacob's sons broke away from the original kingdom of Israel. They were scattered all over the world and became known as the "Ten Lost Tribes." Over the centuries the people of Judah were also scattered to other parts of the world. This is why there are Jewish people in many countries throughout the world.

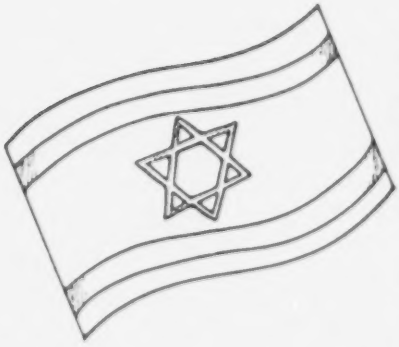
Today, Israel is the homeland for all Jewish people.

- **My Family Tree** – Israel enjoys a heritage that is based upon an important family tree. Have the children create their own family tree.

THE ARAB PEOPLE

The non-Jewish population in Israel is primarily Arab and constitutes about fifteen percent of the total population. The Arabs and the Jewish people historically do not live together in the same towns. Several larger cities such as Nazareth and Jerusalem are exceptions. ***Mosques*** – Muslim places of worship – are landmarks of an Arab village. Almost ten percent of the Arabs in Israel are Bedouin and live in the Negev Desert. They live a nomadic life, moving their tents, sheep, and goats around the desert in search of better grazing land.

- **Bedouin Shepherds** – Have the children draw a picture of a Bedouin shepherd. Show the children photographs of the Bedouins of today. Show the children pictures of shepherds from the Bible or pictures of shepherds during biblical times. Do they look the same to the children?



FLAG OF ISRAEL

The majority of the people in Israel are Jewish. The symbol on Israel's national flag is the Star of David – a traditional Jewish symbol. The background of the flag is white and the star is blue. These are the colors of the Jewish prayer shawl – called a ***tallit***. A tallit is worn by men at religious services. It is a large rectangle with tassels on each corner.

- **Israel's Flag** – Have the children make Israel's flag on a 4" x 6" index card. Make the star by painting six wooden toothpicks blue. Let dry. Glue the toothpicks into the shape of the Star of David.

HOLIDAYS & HOLY DAYS

SHABBAT

"Sabbath" is the English word for Shabbat. Although the state of Israel is not governed by the Jewish religion, the religion does affect daily life. The Shabbat is the weekly holy day. For the Jewish people this day is Saturday. It is a day that the Jewish people take very seriously. All the businesses are closed, along with entertainment and public transportation. For people who practice the Jewish faith, it is a day of "no work" – this includes cooking. Families eat cold foods.

The people in Israel do not *have* to observe the Shabbat, but everyone is affected by the shutdown of all business and work. Muslims have a holy day on Fridays and Christians have their holy day on Sundays.

PURIM

Purim is a huge celebration that occurs during the month of March. The celebration is based on the events of Esther, a biblical Jewish woman who married Ahasuerus, the Persian King. A Persian official named Haman wanted the King to kill all the Jewish people in his kingdom. Queen Esther went to Ahasuerus and convinced him that Haman's idea was wicked. King Ahasuerus punished Haman instead of killing the Jewish people.

During Purim, the Book of Esther is read from a scroll. After that, the children dress up as the characters from the story of Esther and re-enact the story. There is dancing in the streets, gifts of special food, and laughter everywhere.

- **Scroll** – Glue a craft stick at the top and at the bottom of a sheet of paper that has been cut slightly smaller than the width of the craft sticks. Write a short story and roll up your scroll.

ROSH HASHANAH/YOM KIPPUR

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. It is a serious time of looking back at the past. It begins with ten days of repentance. The last day of repentance is Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year. Some people attend an evening service and stay at the temple all night and the entire next day – praying the entire time they are there. People who leave after the service go home and continue to pray and fast.

- **Think about Last Year** – During Rosh Hashanah the Jewish people look back into the past year. Think about all the things that you did last year. On a sheet of paper, write down something that you did last year that ***you wish you hadn't done***. (hit your brother or sister, yelled at someone, etc.) **Do not** put your name on your paper. Fold the paper and put it in a box. Have the children take turns picking a paper out of the box and reading it. As a class, talk about what is written on the paper. Discuss problem-solving and different ways of handling problems.

HANUKKAH

Hanukkah comes in December. It is a celebration that remembers an important Jewish miracle. The Greek rulers tried to destroy Israel. The Jewish people fought their enemy for three years and at last they won. Lights were always kept burning inside the temple, but finally there was only enough oil left for one more day. Then the great miracle occurred. The light burned for eight days and nights, giving the Jews enough time to prepare more oil. Ever since then, the Jewish people around the world celebrate Hanukkah by lighting one candle each night of the eight nights until all are lit on the last day of the holiday.

- **Latkes** – Latkes are served during the eight-day celebration of Hanukkah. You will need: 4 large potatoes; 1 medium onion; 1 teaspoon salt; 1 egg, well-beaten; 3 tablespoons flour or matzo meal; 1/2 teaspoon baking powder; vegetable oil or other fat for frying. Peel and grate potatoes. Grate onion and add to potatoes. Add and mix salt, egg, baking powder, flour or matzo meal . Beat all the ingredients into a smooth batter. If batter seems too watery, add a little more flour. Drop by tablespoons into hot fat. The fat must be deep enough to almost cover the cake. Brown on one side, then turn over and brown the other side. These are delicious when served with applesauce.

LIVING IN ISRAEL

KIBBUTZ

In 1909, twelve young Jews from Russia left their homes and pitched tents to make new homes in the Holy Land. They wanted to farm land and create a community where everything was shared by the people who lived and worked together. The land that they found had been neglected for centuries. These young people knew a lot about farming. They restored the soil and drilled wells and built irrigation systems. More and more people came to help. After much work, they actually grew corn and began the first Kibbutz.

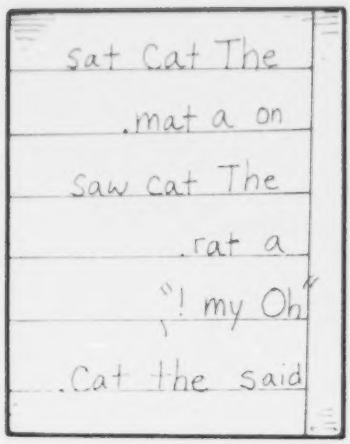
Today there are over 260 settlements where more than 100,000 people live and work. All the people work equally. In some Kibbutzim, children live, sleep, and learn in the House of Children, spending only a few hours a day with their parents. In other Kibbutzim children sleep in their parents' home at night. At first all Kibbutzim were agricultural, but as other people joined, new talents were found and new industries grew. Nowadays a Kibbutz might build furniture, make toys, or produce electronic equipment. No matter what the Kibbutz builds or produces, all the members equally own and share everything. There is no money on a Kibbutz. A Kibbutz member uses a Kibbutz credit card and is able to take what he/she needs from a Kibbutz store.

- **Classroom Kibbutz** – Have the children pretend that they are going to live on an agricultural Kibbutz. Have the children make a list of all the jobs that are needed to make the Kibbutz work. Let the children choose jobs that they would like to have.

Make a Kibbutz book. After the children have chosen a job, have them write a short paragraph explaining their job and make illustrations to go with the job descriptions.

MOSHAV

There are people who want to work cooperatively, but still want to own and live in their own home. These people are farmers who live in a Moshav. In a Moshav village each family owns their own home and some farmland. The group of farmers together plans the work, jointly owns the equipment, and then sells what the land produces. There are many more Moshavim than Kibbutzim.



SCHOOL

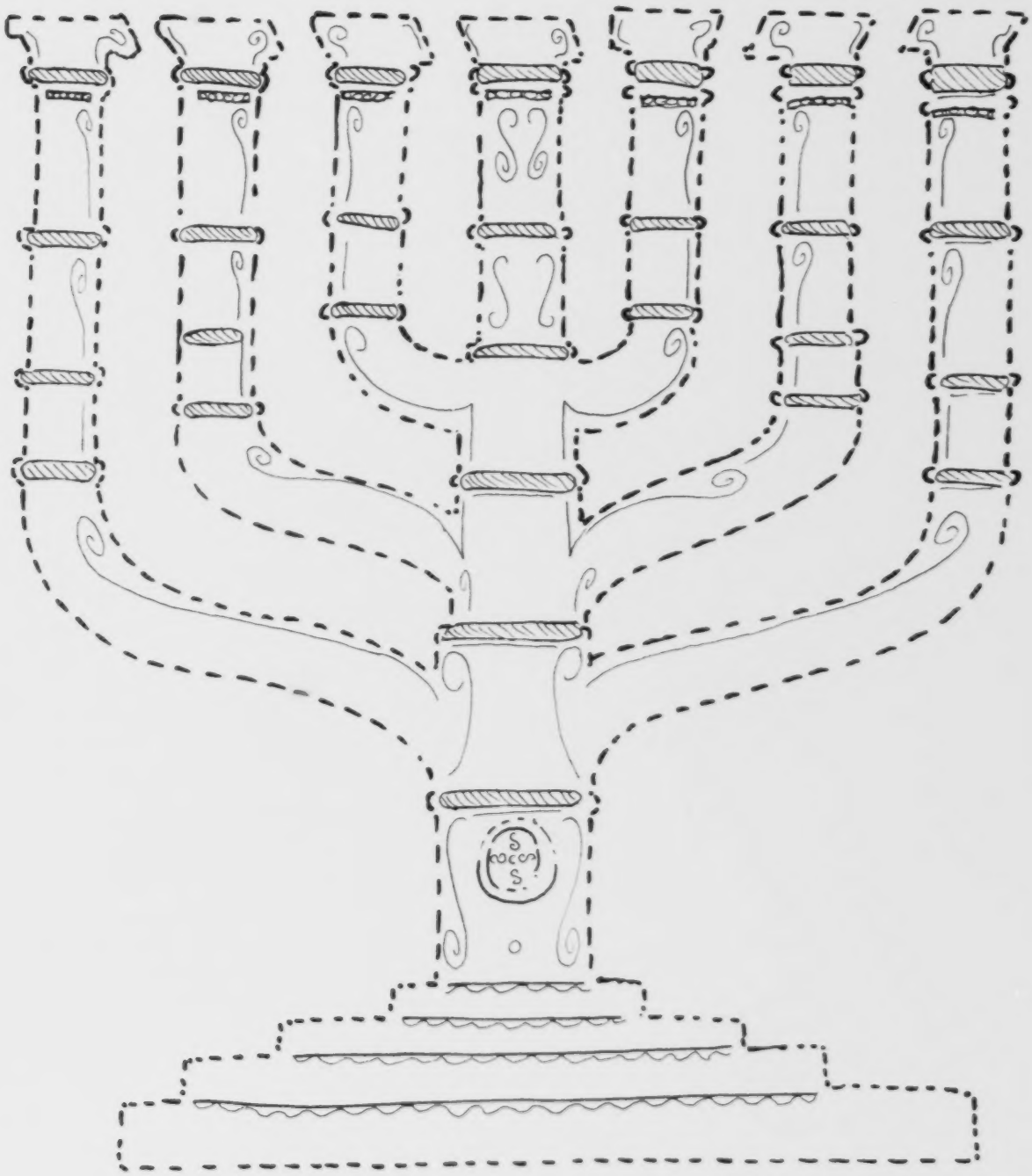
Schools are rapidly increasing in number in Israel. Israeli education is similar to the education in the United States, except that the children attend school from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Israel's national language is Hebrew. It is used in the textbooks and is spoken in all schools. Hebrew is difficult to learn. It is written from right to left on a page and also from right to left in a book. That means that the first page in a Hebrew book would be the last page in an English book.

- **Writing from Right to Left** – Try to write a short story with the words written from right to left. Follow the example next to this activity for an idea. This way of writing is much more difficult than it looks.

Menorah

Trace the menorah.



Name _____

ITALY

Italy is a European country located on a peninsula that extends into the Mediterranean Sea. France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia (formerly part of Yugoslavia) border Italy on the north. The Islands of Sardinia and Sicily are members of Italy's National Territory and are located off Italy's west coast.

It is easy to remember what Italy looks like because it is shaped like a high-heeled boot. The tall mountains called the Alps are located at the top of the boot (northern Italy). The Alps keep out the cold winds and provide Italy with mild winters and hot summers. In southern Italy the weather is always warm.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color the peninsula of Italy orange. Can you see the "boot-shape"?
2. Circle where you think the high-heel is located.
3. Color the island of Sardinia yellow.
4. Color the island of Sicily green.
5. Color the Alps brown.

THE PEOPLE

THE PEOPLE & THEIR LANGUAGE

A long time ago, many people of different nationalities came to live in Italy. These people settled in different regions of Italy. German-born blonde people came over from the Alps; dark-skinned Arab people crossed the Mediterranean Sea; and later, French and Spanish people settled in Italy. For many years Italy was a land that was made up of separate regions, with each region developing its own customs and languages. Today, the Italian people are a mix of all these groups.

Italian children must attend school from the ages of six to fourteen. It is rare for a young Italian person to be unable to read or write. Italian is the national language and is spoken in all of Italy's schools.

- **Learn Some Italian** – Here are some words and phrases in Italian:
  maestro - "master" (a name children call their teacher)
  Mamma Mia! - "My mother!" (a phrase used to show excitement)
  Mangia - "eat"

FOOD

The Italian people are well-known for their love of cooking and food. When one thinks of Italian food, thoughts of pizza and spaghetti and meatballs usually come to mind. The Italian people are well-known for many other great foods made with pasta.

- **Pasta Creations** - Meals based on pasta are common in Italy. Purchase a variety of pasta for the children to examine which can be easily strung onto necklaces. Pasta can be dyed using hot water, food coloring, and 1 tablespoon of vinegar for each cup of hot water. Soak pasta for a couple minutes and lay it on wax paper to dry overnight. The next day the pasta can be strung into colorful necklaces.
- **Serve an Italian Meal** – A salad with Italian dressing; spaghetti or ravioli as the main course; garlic bread; and of course, spumoni ice cream for dessert.

SPORTS

The beautiful beaches and impressive mountains provide the Italian people with natural resources for swimming, snorkeling, and playing on the sandy beaches, as well as downhill skiing, skating, and bobsledding.

The most popular team sport in Italy is soccer. While American children love to hit balls, Italian children love to kick balls. All the major cities in Italy have their own soccer teams.

- **Bocce** – Another Italian ball game is called bocce. Bocce is similar to yard bowling. Bocce was once only played by old men. It is now played by people of all ages.

Each team gets four wooden balls. A smaller ball called the ***pallino*** is rolled. Each team rolls its balls as close to the pallino as they can. The objective is to score points by rolling your ball closer to the pallino than the other team.

Borrow a bocce ball set from a friend or purchase a set from a local department store or sporting goods store. Let your class try to play bocce. Be sure to stress that the balls are not to be thrown – they are to be rolled carefully. Bocce balls are very heavy and could cause injury if someone was hit.

CELEBRATIONS

FESTIVALS

Once a year each town in Italy has a huge festival for the town's patron saint. The people dance, sing, and eat! The townspeople dress the statue of their patron saint in beautiful clothes and carry it through the streets in a parade.

The saints are extremely important to the Italian people. Children are named after a saint and celebrate "name days." Name days are set aside for children to honor these saints. In Italy name days are more important than birthdays.

- **What Does Your Name Mean?** – Bring in a name book. Look up the children's names so they can learn what their names mean. As a homework assignment, ask the children to find out why their parents gave them their particular name. Was it an old family name? Did the parents simply like the name? Were they named after someone special? Have the children share what they learned with the class.

FOLKTALES

Up until recent times, many Italian workers and farmers could not read or write. History and other cultural or important information was saved through story telling. This art of story telling is similar to the story telling of American Indians. Usually an old woman in the town learned all the stories and would tell them to the children.

- **An Italian Legend** – Here is an old legend about one of Italy's most popular saints, Saint Francis of Assisi. This man was born into wealth but gave away everything he had to the poor.

> The wolf lived in a nearby forest. First it killed the people's cattle, and then it killed two men. The townspeople were so scared that they locked themselves in their homes.
>
> Francis decided to go into the woods and talk to the wolf himself. Francis did not take any weapons with him because he believed that the wolf was old and hungry. Francis had a way with animals.
>
> When Francis met the wolf, he began talking and the wolf listened closely. Francis made a promise to the wolf. He promised the wolf that the people would feed it if it would promise to stop killing. The wolf handed Francis his paw and they shook.
>
> Francis led the wolf into town. The people came out of their homes and were greatly surprised to see Francis walking with the tame wolf. From that day on, the townspeople fed the wolf. The wolf would go from door to door and the people always had food for it. Two years later, the wolf died. – gentle and with a full stomach.

CRICKETS IN FLORENCE

Fiesta del Grille, or the Cricket festival, is a festival to celebrate spring. In Florence, the people believe that the chirping crickets are a sign of spring. The day before the feast begins the children buy small wicker cages and go out and hunt for crickets.

On this day families go on a picnic in the town square of La Sune Park. The children bring their crickets along. At the park small stands are set up where people can buy balloons and treats.

Italians believe that if they have brought a singing cricket with them it will bring them good luck. At the end of the day the children set their crickets free. This is also believed to bring good luck.

- **Make a Cricket** – Paint a clothespin green. Add six pipe cleaner legs. Construction paper wings can be glued to the back of the clothespin cricket. Use the clothespin cricket to keep important papers clipped together.

FAMOUS CITIES & PLACES

VENICE

Venice is the famous Italian city that has canals (waterways) for streets. The city of Venice is actually built on 120 tiny islands in the Adriatic Sea. Since Venice is an island city there are no major streets. People once traveled in beautiful ***gondolas*** (boats). The gondolas were piloted by a ***gondolier*** who sang as he pushed the gondola along with a large pole. Today only a few gondolas remain on the canals. People now travel in large motorboats called ***vaparettos***. Many cities have a main street that runs through the center of the city. Venice has the Grand Canal, a huge canal which serves as the city's main street.

- **Build Venice** – Cover a table in blue construction paper – this will represent water. Lay island-shaped, green construction paper cut-outs on a table. Using building blocks, create buildings on the islands. Add small construction paper gondolas. You have now built Venice!

FLORENCE

The age of the Renaissance comes alive again in the city of Florence. Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci both created their art in Florence. During the Renaissance the wealthy Medici family wanted to make Florence the most beautiful city in Europe.

- **Isn't It Beautiful?** – Show the children photographs of the masterpieces of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. Many of Michelangelo's best-known pieces are sculptures – Leonardo da Vinci's best-known works are paintings. Create an art gallery in your classroom. Let the children paint – frame pictures with colored construction paper – and sculpt with clay or playdough. Encourage the children to title their masterpieces. Invite another classroom to come and tour your "gallery."

ROME

Rome is the capital of Italy. Rome is often called the Ancient City because the ruins of the Roman Empire can still be found there. Rome is filled with beautiful ***piazzas*** (a town square, often in front of a church). The piazzas of Rome are decorated with magnificent statues and fountains. The Piazza Navona used to be the site of Roman chariot racing. You can still see the oval shape of the race track. The Fontana di Trevi is Rome's most famous fountain. Tourists from all the world come to this fountain, turn backwards and throw a coin over their shoulder. If the coin lands in the fountain it is believed that someday you will return to Rome.

Vatican City is a very tiny country in the middle of Rome. This is where the head of the Catholic Church (the Pope) lives. The world's largest church, Saint Peter's Cathedral, is also located there. It took over 150 years to build St. Peter's Cathedral. The famous Sistine Chapel, with Michelangelo's beautiful ceilings, is part of the Vatican.

The ancient Colosseum, with its crumbling walls, still stands. This is the place where gladiators fought and the Roman people watched. Today this colosseum is filled with hundreds of stray cats.

- **Chariots & Gladiators** – Research more about chariot racing and the gladiators. As a cooperative learning project divide the children into groups of four. Provide each group with a life-size piece of butcher paper. One child lays down on the paper, while another child traces around the child who is laying down. Have the children create a gladiator costume on the child's outline. What would a gladiator wear? What weapons might he be holding? Display your gladiators in the hall outside your classroom.

SICILY

Sicily is the largest and most populated island in the Mediterranean Sea. It is south of the peninsula of Italy and is only a short distance from Africa. A hot wind called the ***sirocco*** blows from the Sahara Desert in Africa, over the Mediterranean Sea to Sicily. This hot wind picks up the red desert dust from the Sahara and brings that dust to Sicily – consequently when it rains in Sicily, the rain is sometimes red.

- **Red Rain!** – Look at a map to see how close Sicily is to Africa. Draw a picture of a red rainstorm.

JAPAN

Japan is a country that consists of four main islands: Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku; and nearly 4,000 smaller islands. The islands of Japan are part of a chain of volcanoes in the Pacific Ocean called the "Ring of Fire." While most of Japan's 123 million people live on the four main islands, over 400 of the smaller islands are also inhabited.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color KYUSHU blue.
   Color HONSHU yellow.
   Color SHIKOKU red.
   Color HOKKAIDO green.
2. Label Lake Biwa.
   (Japan's largest lake.)
3. Label Shinano-gawa.
   (Japan's longest river.)

About three-fourths of Japan consists of forest-covered mountains. Mt. Fuji (called "Fuji-San" by the Japanese) is Japan's largest mountain. It is 12,388 feet high (3,776 meters) and is an inactive volcano. Mt. Fuji is covered with snow for ten months of the year. July and August are the only months when there is no snow. During these months people are allowed to climb Mt. Fuji. It last erupted in 1707. Of Japans 265 volcanoes, over sixty of them are still active.

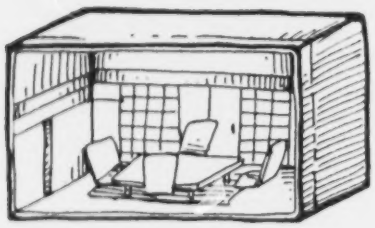
The Japanese call their country *Nippon*, which means "land of the rising sun."

THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN

JAPANESE HOMES

Japan is so crowded that most people must live in small houses or apartments. Many families have only one or two rooms to live in. The floors of a traditional Japanese home are covered in ***tatami*** — thick mats made of rice straw. Tatami is so comfortable that little furniture is necessary. The Japanese sleep on tatami and wrap themselves in a thick quilt called a ***futon.***

The walls inside a Japanese home are sliding doors made from paper. In the center of the house is a low table where the family eats and spends time together.



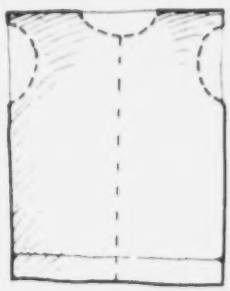
• **Japanese Shoe Box Home** — Ask the children to bring a shoe box to school. Have the children decorate the inside of the shoe box to look like the inside of a traditional Japanese home. Ask the children if they are going to create a one or two-room home. What material will they use for the tatami floor covering? Remember the low table.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DRESS

The traditional costume of Japan is the ***kimono***. Kimonos are robes that wrap in the front and are tied in the back with a sash called an ***obi***. White-ankle socks, called ***tabi***, are worn with sandals and are divided at the big toe, resembling mittens for the feet.

• **Make Your Own Kimono** — Ask the children to bring in an old pillowcase from home. Have the children cut out arm holes, a hole for their head, and a slit up one side of the pillowcase. Decorate the front panels of the kimono with fabric paint. Tie with ribbon or strips of scrap fabric. (Follow the illustration.)

• **Version 2** — The kimono can also be made with a grocery bag. Follow the same directions for cutting. Decorate with markers, paint, or crayons.



JAPANESE FOOD

Healthy food is extremely important to the Japanese. Many women shop for groceries every day to ensure that their food is as fresh as possible. Japanese people also spend a lot of time preparing their food.

The Japanese eat rice and many vegetables every day. The following Japanese foods are easy-to-prepare classroom recipes:

Easy Stir-Fry

Using an electric wok, stir-fry a variety of vegetables: carrots, celery, broccoli, bamboo shoots, onions; then season with soy sauce (if you like, you may add chicken or beef to the dish). Prepare an instant white rice. Serve the vegetables over rice.

Okonomiyaki (Japanese Pancakes)

You will need: 1/2 cup onion, 1 grated carrot, 1 cup chopped cabbage, 1 cup flour, 1 pinch salt, 1/8 teaspoon baking soda, 1 egg, 3/4 cup milk, 2 teaspoons soy sauce, 1/2 teaspoon sugar, and 1 tablespoon cooking oil.

Directions: Brown the vegetables. Mix the flour, salt, soy sauce, sugar, baking soda, egg, and milk. Add the browned vegetables. Coat the frying pan with oil. Pour in the batter just like pancakes. Cook one side until brown and then flip with a spatula. Cook the other side.

JAPANESE TRADITIONS

TEA CEREMONY

The tea ceremony is an important tradition in Japan. During this ceremony people are taught the importance of friendship, good manners, and nature. These three things are highly valued in Japan.

A tea ceremony takes place in a special one-room building called a tea house, which usually has beautiful flowers and gardens around it. People wear kimonos and remove their shoes when they enter the tea house. The ***tokonoma*** is an opening in the wall in the corner of the room where a painting or writing hangs — people bow to the tokonoma and then sit on their knees.

The hostess of the tea ceremony wipes out the tea bowl — this symbolizes cleanliness. The hostess then places green tea into the bowl with a scoop, pours hot water over the tea, and mixes it with a bamboo brush. When people drink from the tea bowl they first admire the tea and the time that went into preparing it; they also observe the beauty of the bowl, and think about all the people who have drunk from that bowl. After drinking, each person wipes the rim with a paper napkin called a ***kaisha***. The bowl is then passed to the next person.

• **Classroom Tea Ceremony** —Prepare a tea ceremony for your classroom. Use a type of tea that children may like (apple, cinnamon, orange, etc.). Wear the kimonos that the children made (page 61).

CHILDREN'S DAY — May 5

The Japanese set aside May 5 each year to honor their children. This special day is called Children's Day. The day was once called Boy's Day, but has been changed to honor both male and female children.

On Children's Day large windsock fish made out of paper or cloth are hung outside the home. Each boy in the family has his own fish. The oldest boy has the largest fish and the youngest boy has the smallest fish. The fish is a sign of strength in Japan.

• **Fish Windsocks** — Have the children make fish windsocks from lunch-size paper bags. Decorate the bag on all four sides to look like a fish. Attach strings from each of the four corners of the bag and tie the four strings together about 12" from the bag. Hang from the ceiling for display.

GIRL'S DAY — March 3

On this special day, old dolls that have been handed down for generations are taken out of storage. The dolls are displayed in a special order on special shelves. On the top shelf sits the emperor and the empress. Other dolls might include servants, musicians, and soldiers. Doll furniture is displayed on the bottom shelves. Rice cakes called ***hisimochi*** are also put on the shelves.

• **Girl's Day Classroom Display** — Ask *everyone* to bring a doll and some small doll furniture to school. Arrange the dolls according to the tradition. You will have to vote on the emperor and the empress dolls. Serve the children rice cakes (available at most grocery stores.)

NEW YEAR'S DAY

New Year's Day celebrations once lasted 15 days, but is now primarily celebrated on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Homes are decorated in anticipation of the New Year. On New Year's Eve the Japanese eat buckwheat noodles called ***soba***. A singing contest is held in which two teams compete by singing popular songs and are then judged by a panel of celebrities. At midnight the bells in the temples ring. New Year's morning is an exciting time when all the New Year's cards from family and friends are delivered by the mail carrier. They read the cards during breakfast. The children do not get presents, but instead receive money in beautiful envelopes. Later they visit friends.

• **New Year's Morning** — Celebrate New Year's morning in your classroom. Have the children prepare New Year's cards for their classmates. A reproducible pattern is provided for you on page 64. There are four different cards on the pattern. Reproduce enough so that each child may send a card to everyone in the class. Prepare a simple breakfast (juice and donuts). Assign a few children to be mail carriers and pass out the New Year's cards.

JAPANESE INTERESTS

BONSAI

Bonsai is the ancient Japanese art of shaping and dwarfing trees in small containers to make miniature versions of mature trees — this is a highly valued art form in Japan. Part of the root of a plant is cut back and wires are used to bend the roots and shape the branches. Almost all woody plants can be grown as bonsai.

• **Learning More** — Ask a florist to come and give your class a presentation about bonsai plants. Have the children design and draw a picture of a bonsai tree. Remember to tell them to pay special attention to the container they draw. The container is equally as important to the artist as the tree.

SUMO WRESTLING

Sumo wrestling is a popular sport in Japan. Sumo wrestlers are huge men who stand over 6 feet tall and weigh over 300 pounds. A match is lost by the wrestler who steps out of the ring or touches the floor of the ring with anything but the soles of his feet. It is an extremely difficult sport that requires a great amout of strength. Sumo wrestlers train long and hard hours. They follow a special diet which helps them gain weight. Sumo wrestlers in Japan are viewed as super-heroes.

• **Sumo Math** — How many children in your classroom would it take to equal one 300-pound sumo wrestler? How many sumo wrestlers could you have in your classroom using the weights of all the children? Figure it out!

PUURE BOORU! (Play Ball!)

Baseball is probably the most popular sport in Japan — watched and loved by everyone. Japan has many excellent professional baseball teams. The Tokyo Giants helped make baseball an important sport in Japan.

hitto means "hit"
fouru means "foul"
booru means "ball"
sturiki means "strike"

• **Play Classroom Baseball** — Play a game of baseball with your class using the Japanese baseball vocabulary.

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE THEATER

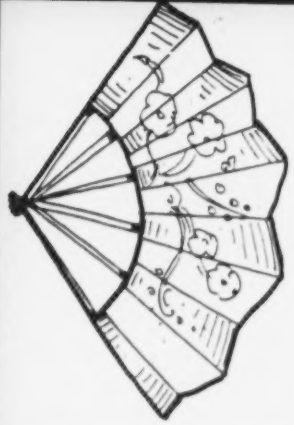
There are three types of traditional theater in Japan:

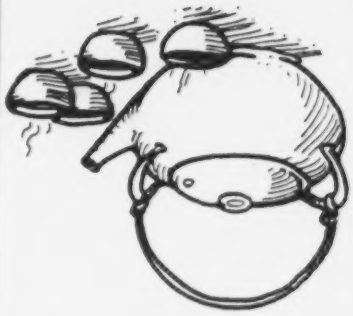
Noh Theater — The actors wear masks and perform serious plays about history and legends. The actors perform the story using movements and gestures. Another group of people (the chorus) chants the lines of the play.

Bunraku Theater — This is puppet theater. A narrator recites the story while life-like puppets perform the story.

Kabuki Theater — The actors wear spectacular costumes and dramatic make-up. They portray historical or domestic events.

• **Bunraku Theater** — Divide the children into cooperative learning groups. Have each group prepare a puppet play and present it before the class. One child should be the narrator while the other children manipulate either stick or paper bag puppets.





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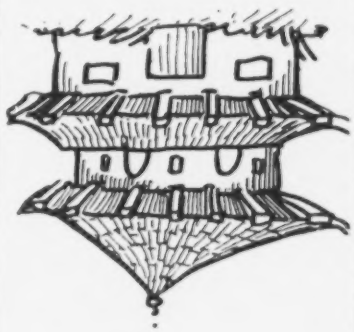

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MEXICO

Mexico is the third-largest country in Latin America. It is shaped like a horn. Mexico is bordered on the north by the United States. The Pacific Ocean is on Mexico's west coast and the Gulf of Mexico is on Mexico's east coast. The southern tip of Mexico is bordered by the countries of Guatemala and Belize.

Mexico has a long strip of land that lies directly south of California. This is the longest peninsula in the world and is called Baja California. The Bay of California lies between Baja California and Mexico.

Mexico's landscape is extremely varied. It includes deserts, grasslands, mountains, and tropical forests. Two large mountain ranges run the length of both sides of Mexico's seacoasts: West coast, Sierra Madre Occidental; east coast, Sierra Madre Oriental. There are so many volcanoes in Mexico that no one has ever made an exact list.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color Guatemala orange.
2. Color Belize red.
3. Color the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Sierra Madre Oriental brown.
4. Color Mexico yellow.
5. Color the USA blue.
6. Draw a boat in the Gulf of Mexico.

PEOPLE

MEXICO'S PEOPLE

Christopher Columbus Day is honored in Mexico and is called ***Dia de la Raza*** (Day of the Race). Almost every village and town has a statue of Columbus. To the Mexican people, Christopher Columbus and his explorations to the "New World" symbolize the birth of their race.

Mexico is the result of two civilizations – the American Indians and the Spanish. The first people in what is now called Mexico were Indians. The Indian people formed tribes and built great civilizations. Some of these civilizations were the Mayas, Toltecs, and the Aztecs. (More information about Mayas and Aztecs is found on the following page.)

The Spanish arrived in Mexico in 1519 and conquered the most powerful tribe – the Aztecs. Mexico was made a colony of Spain and called New Spain. Over the centuries the Spanish and the Indian people married and created a new race called the ***Mestizos***. There are many people in Mexico who are White, Indian, Black, and Asian, but the majority of Mexicans call themselves Mestizos.

- **Mexican Poetry** – The Mestizos are proud of their country.

Saludo a La Bandera	**Salute to the Flag**
Bandera de tres colores	Flag of three colors
yo te doy mi corazón	I give you my heart
te saludo mi bandera	I salute you my flag
con respeto y con amor.	With respect and love.
Es el saludo de un niño	It is the pledge of a child
que siempre ha de ver en tí	That should always be in you
algo grande y respetado	Something great and respected
bandera de mi país.	Flag of my country.

CLOTHING

In Mexican cities people often dress the same way as people in the United States or Canada. In the countryside the dress is more simple. Men wear white ***pantalones*** (trousers), ***camisas*** (shirt), ***haraches*** (sandals), a ***serape*** (woven blanket), and a ***sombrero*** (hat). Women wear a ***falda*** (skirt) and a ***rebozo*** (shawl).

- **Haraches (Shoes)** – You will need: cardboard, scrap fabric, scissors, and a stapler. Trace around both the left and the right shoe. Cut out the soles. Cut four 4" x 7" strips of scrap fabric. Fold the strips in thirds making 1 1/2" x 7" strips. Criss-cross the strips and staple the two pieces to each sole. Cut off the excess.

FOOD

Meals are family times. Breakfast is simple – usually coffee and bread. Lunch in rural areas is the large meal of the day, while dinner is the large meal in the city. Mexican food has a distinct style. Corn is Mexico's most important food and is used in many different recipes. Peanuts, vanilla, chocolate, and tomatoes are foods that originally came from Mexico.

- **Tacos** – The word *taco* means "snack" in Spanish, but today is used to denote the sandwich type dish detailed below. Tortillas, which have been folded and fried are filled with meat or beans, a spicy sauce, and covered with cheese, lettuce and tomatoes. You will need: 1 dozen corn tortillas; vegetable oil for frying; 2 cups cooked ground meat; shredded lettuce; chopped tomatoes; grated cheddar or jack cheese; and, bottled salsa.

Heat oil and fry tortilla lightly on one side. Fry both sides until lightly crisp and fold in half. Drain on paper towels and continue frying remaining tortillas. Fill taco shells with meat and desired condiments. Beans, peppers, and onions are excellent additions as well.

- **Quesadillas (Cheese Tortillas)** – These cheese tortillas make great snacks! Sprinkle grated monterey jack cheese on half of a flour tortilla. Fold over, toast in 350° oven ten minutes or in a microwave on high for forty-five seconds and enjoy!

HISTORY

MAYAS

The Mayas had a brilliant civilization, much of which we will never understand. No one knows where they came from or how their civilization disappeared, but we do know a lot about their achievements. From A.D. 300 – 900 their civilization was at its peak with a population of over two million. They built pyramids, devised writing systems, created calendars, studied astronomy and mathematics. Sometime around A.D. 850 the Mayas stopped building cities.

• **Maya Math** – Long ago in Mexico and Central America, the Maya had a very interesting way of writing numbers: For zero they used a shell ( ). For one they used a dot (•).
For five they used a line ———.
By using only the dot, the line, and the shell, they were able to write all the existing counting numbers.

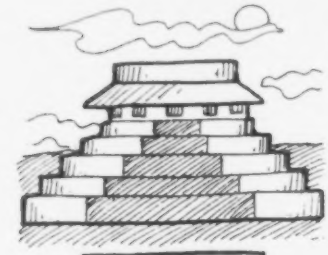
one • three • • • five ——— eight • • • ten ═══

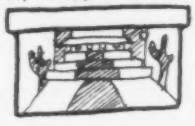
Below are some examples of how you can use Mayan Arithmetic.
What would the Mayans write for: 4? 6? 9?
How would you write the answers in Mayan arithmetic? 4 + 2 = 8 - 5 = 4 x 2 =

• **Maya Dig** – Out of clay, design and make your own artifacts. In a designated area in a vacant lot, or in a sandbox, have your own archeological dig. Include a "treasure" or designate one artifact for the "find" of the day. Did you find them all?

AZTECS

In the thirteenth century, the Aztecs built their huge civilization with its capital being Tenochtitlán (now Mexico City) The city had palaces, parks, a water system, fountains, and winding canals. The men hunted and fished, worked with silver and gold, served in the army or worked the land. The Aztecs grew cotton, corn, squash, beans, tomatoes, potatoes, chili peppers and many fruits. The Aztecs developed and built huge cities with stone buildings and flat topped pyramids. The largest pyramid (The Great Temple) has the head of a serpent made of stone to represent their god, Quetzalcóatl. Today this serpent appears on the flag of Mexico.





• **Pyramid Silhouettes** – Imagine yourself coming through the jungle and you see an Aztec city with those beautiful pyramids at sunset. The pyramids are black against a magnificent Mexican sunset. Do a watercolor wash using reds and oranges and let it dry on a large piece of white construction paper. As an alternative, you might want to finger-paint the background. After the paint has dried, glue on pyramids that have been cut out of black construction paper. Add cacti or whatever the imagination will allow.

• **Peep Box** – Using an old shoe box, cut a hole at one end of the box. Cut a larger hole in the lid of the box. (You have to let some light in so you can see.) Build an Aztec village in the box using construction paper, twigs, tagboard, clay, etc. Put the cover on top of the box and look through the round hole at the three-dimensional village.

• **Silver Necklace** – Some of the Aztec designs are still used by many of the artists in Mexico today. Make a "silver" necklace using the primitive designs of the Aztecs. It is possible here to use some of the designs from the Aztec Calendar. Trace a design on a piece of cardboard and cut it out. Cut pieces of cord and glue them on the outlines of the design. *Make it simple!* Take a piece of aluminum foil that is **larger** than the cut-out and gently mold it around the cord by pressing down around the cord. After the pattern is secure, tuck the edges of the foil around the back and glue it to the cardboard. Punch a hole at the top and wear your "silver" necklace with pride.

HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS

PIÑATA

A piñata is used for all Mexican celebrations. It originated in Italy. People played a game where they hung a pot and tried to hit it with a stick while blindfolded. The Spanish took the concept of the game and decorated the pot because they thought it looked ugly. It is believed that the Spaniards introduced the piñata to Mexico when it was New Spain. In Mexico candies and sweets were added to the inside of the piñata. About 50 years ago people began making piñata's in various shapes and from a varity of materials. The piñata symbolizes evil and children are good. When a child breaks a piñata – good overcomes evil.

- **Piñatas** – Make piñatas by using blown up balloons. Tear newspapers into strips and dip into wheat paste or liquid laundry starch. Cover the balloons to the desired shape. Tearing the paper is more effective because the rough edges help the paper stick together. Reinforce the area between two balloons by placing the strips lengthwise between the two balloons. Four layers of strips are enough. Leave an opening to be closed after the piñata has dried so you can put the treats inside. Then seal the piñata and decorate with crepe paper strips that are curled at the ends. Arms and legs can be added but this must be done while the piñata is wet. Make an animal, person, bird, etc.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS (Day of the Dead)

During the middle of October many Mexican families prepare to celebrate the reunion of the living and the non-living. It is a time to remember one's ancestors and for "los muertos," a time to return home and make sure all is well and that the dead have not been forgotten. In hispanic culture it is a celebration of life, combining a fun, yet respectful celebration of death. People attend memorial services. Masks, banners, special sweets, and toys are prepared for the children.

- **Potato Skull Prints** – Wash a potato and dry with a paper towel. Cut potato in half to make a flat surface. Mark a skull design on potato with a pencil. Use a knife to cut away the eyes, nose, mouth, etc. Soak a sponge with paint. Press potato into the sponge, then onto the paper to make prints. Decorate the skull prints with foil, or write your name in glitter on the forehead to add a special touch.

LAS POSADAS (Looking for the Inn)

Every Christmas season, Mexican families celebrate "Las Posadas" to recreate the journey of Joseph and Mary as they searched for lodging in Bethlehem. The celebration begins with a procession led by people dressed like Mary and Joseph – they are followed by angels and shepherds. They go door-to-door singing. Finally they are invited in for a special meal, a piñata, and dancing. The Nacimiento (Nativity Scene) is set up on December 16 – the manger is empty and the Wise Men are placed far away. After Christmas Eve mass the baby Jesus is placed in the manger. The Wise Men are moved a little closer each day until they reach the manger on January 6.

- **Aguinaldo** – Trace around a dinner plate to make a circle on construction paper. Cut out the circle. Fold in half, then cut on fold line, (see illustration). Draw decorations on both halves. Roll one half-circle into a cone, overlap ends, and tape. Repeat with the second half-circle. Cut crepe paper into two 4" x 12" strips. Glue crepe paper inside cone 1" down from top edge. Let dry thoroughly, then fill with fruit, candy, coins, or small toys. Tie the top with a ribbon. Make a second aguinaldo with remaining cone.
- **Ensalada De Noche Buena (Christmas Eve Salad)** – This traditional Christmas Eve salad used to be served in Mexico with a sprinkling of sugar. Today it is often served with French dressing or mayonnaise. Ingredients: 1 head lettuce, shredded; 3 sliced cooked beets; 3 sliced red apples; 3 slices pineapple, quartered; 2 peeled oranges, sliced; 2 bananas, sliced; 1/2 cup roasted peanuts; 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds.

Spread the lettuce on a large plate. Arrange beets and fruits in a symmetrical pattern, alternating colors. Sprinkle with nuts and pomegranate seeds. Serve desired dressing separately.

LANGUAGE

Days of the Week/Días de la semana
(Note – in Spanish the days are not capitalized.)

Sunday/el domingo
Monday/el lunes
Tuesday/el martes
Wednesday/el miércoles
Thursday/el jueves
Friday/el viernes
Saturday/el sábado

Months of the Year/Meses del año
(Note – in Spanish, the months are not capitalized.)

January/enero
February/febrero
March/marzo
April/abril
May/mayo
June/junio
July/julio
August/agosto
September/septiembre
October/octubre
November/noviembre
December/diciembre

Seasons/Estaciones

Summer/verano
Spring/primavera
Winter/invierno
Autumn/otõno

Phrases

¿Cuál es la fecha? (What is the date?)
¿Cuántos días hay en una semana? (How many days in a week?)
¿Qué día es hoy? (What day is it?)
¿En qué estación estamos? (What season is it?)
¡Dígame (díganme-plural) los días de la semana! (Tell me the days of the week!)

Numbers/Números

0	cero	11	once	21	veintiuno
1	uno	12	doce	22	ventidós
2	dos	13	trece	23	ventitrés
3	tres	14	catorce	24	venticuatro
4	cuatro	15	quince	25	veinticinco
5	cinco	16	dieciséis	26	ventiséis
6	seis	17	diecisiete	27	ventisiete
7	siete	18	dieciocho	28	ventiocho
8	ocho	19	diecinueve	29	veintinueve
9	nueve	20	veinte	30	treinta
10	diez				

Family Members/Miembros de la Familia

Mother/Mamá
Father/Papá
Parents/Padres
Uncle/Tío
Aunt/Tía
Cousin/Primo (boy)
Prima (girl)
Son/Hijo
Daughter/Hija
Children/Hijos (yours)
Woman/Mujer
Man/Hombre
Baby/Bebé
Family/Familia
I/Yo
Family Tree
Grandmother/Abuela
Grandfather/Abuelo
Grandparents/Abuelos
Brother/Hermano
Sister/Hermana
Brother and Sister/Hermanos
Nephew/Sobrino
Niece/Sobrina
Nephew and Niece/Sobrinos
Boy/Muchacho, Niño
Girl/Muchacha, Niña
Youth/Adolescente, joven
Old Woman/Vieja
Old Man/Viejo
Old People/Viejos
El árbol de la familia

Colors

red	rojo
green	verde
orange	anaranjado
yellow	amarillo
blue	azul
purple	morado
black	negro
white	blanco
pink	rosado
brown	color café

NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands is a small country in northwestern Europe. To the west and north of the Netherlands is the North Sea. Germany is to the east, and Belgium is to the south.

The country has four distinct land areas. **The dunes** consists of large amounts of sand off the western shore of the Netherlands. These sand dunes help protect the country from the North Sea.

The Polders is the area that is protected from flooding by dikes. (Read the activities on page 72 to learn more about polders.)

The **Sand Plains** are very dry. This land is used for raising cattle, horses, and hogs.

The **Southern Uplands** have fertile soil where fruit is grown. This area has the highest elevation in the country.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Draw some windmills in the polders.
2. Draw and color brown sand dunes in the North Sea.
3. Color Germany yellow.
4. Color Belgium orange.
5. Color the Netherlands green.

PEOPLE

NEDERLANDERS

People who live in the Netherlands call themselves "Hollanders" or "Nederlanders." English-speaking people call them the "Dutch." The Dutch are a considerate and polite people. They value their homes and their families. Most Dutch families spend a great deal of time together. Parents teach their children important values such as being polite, considerate, and respectful.

In the evening the family gathers together in one room. The parents read and the children do their homework. The Dutch love to read. It is estimated that Dutch adults spend forty-five minutes a day reading the newspaper. They spend even more time reading for pleasure.

- **Incentives for Reading** – A love of reading often needs to be taught to children. The Dutch teach their children by setting a good example and reading a lot in the home. Help teach "a love of reading" to the children in your classroom. Make a windmill incentive chart. Have the children write the title of each book they read independently, on a windmill sail. When the windmill sails are full of book titles the children can put their windmills on a bulletin board. Before long your bulletin board will look like the Netherlands.

CLOTHING

Today most Dutch people dress the same as people in the United States or Canada. Long ago, Dutch women wore long skirts and lace hats. Men wore round hats and baggy pants. In some small villages people may still wear traditional clothing.

The Dutch are well known for their wooden shoes, called ***klompen***. People still wear klompen in the Netherlands. The wood protects their feet from the moisture on the ground. Klompen are only worn outside and are left outside when people enter a home or building.

- **Wooden Shoes** – Let the children make wooden shoes from modeling clay.
- **Dutch Dolls in Costume** – Many children have Dutch dolls. Ask the children if anyone has a Dutch doll in traditional costume he/she could bring to school to share with the class.

LANGUAGE

Dutch is the national language of the Netherlands. There are a variety of dialects in the Dutch language – a person from one province may not be able to understand a person from another province. The province of Friesland in the Netherlands has its own language called Fristan.

- **Dutch Language** – The following words are understood by most people in the Netherlands:

Moeder – Mother	Melk – Milk	Ja – Yes
Vader – Father	Koffie – Coffee	Nee – No
Zuster – Sister	Appel – Apple	Huiswerk – Homework
Broer – Brother	Pannenkoeken – Pancakes	Leraar – Teacher
Grootmoeder – Grandmother	Kaas – Cheese	Hoofd – Head
Grootvader – Grandfather	Vlees – Meat	Been – Leg
Tante – Aunt	Eieren – Eggs	Klok – Clock
Oom – Uncle	Sla – Salad	School – School

DEFINITELY DUTCH

THE DIKES

There is an old Dutch saying, "The Dutch created the Netherlands." This is actually a true statement. Almost half of the Netherlands lies below sea level. Over 6,000 years ago the first settlers came to the Netherlands. The land was very different than it is today. The North Sea would rise over the land at high tide and cover the coast with water. The remaining land was wet and marshy. About 2,000 years ago people discovered that if they piled up dirt into large mounds and built their homes on top of the mounds, they could keep their homes dry.

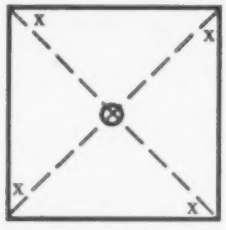
Around 58 B.C. the Romans ruled the Netherlands. The Romans thought it was miserable that people had to live on top of mounds of dirt. When the tide came in it looked like people lived on small islands. The Romans began construction of the first dikes to hold the water back. A dike is a wall that protects the land from the North Sea. Without these dikes, nearly half of the country would be under water. The land that is created when the dike keeps the water out is called a polder.

- **Read the Old Legend** – There is a familiar old legend about the little boy who saved his village from flooding by putting his finger in the hole in the dike. This story is now titled, *The Hole in the Dike,* as retold by Norma B. Green and illustrated by Eric Carle. It is available in libraries and bookstores. It is a wonderful story that helps children to understand the workings of the dikes in the Netherlands.

WINDMILLS

When one thinks of the Netherlands, thoughts of beautiful windmills usually come to mind. As beautiful as the windmills are, they serve an important purpose. The polders (land created from the dikes) fill with water after rainstorms. The water in the polders needs to be drained. In the late 1200s people invented the first windmills. The wind (the Netherlands is a very windy country) turns the sails. The turning sails would move giant scoopers that would scoop up the water and toss it back over the dikes. Today the windmills generate power to a motor that runs a complicated drainage system.

Windmills have an interesting history of not only draining the water, but also providing power for grinding wheat into grain and wood into sawdust. Windmills were also used for sending messages. The sails would be left in certain positions to let people know of a marriage, death, or if people were needed to come home.



- **Make a Windmill** – Make a cone-shaped base out of construction paper. Attach a pinwheel to the top for the sails of the windmill. To make the sails, cut out a square. Trace a penny-size circle in the middle of the square. Follow the example next to this activity as you draw the dotted cutting lines. Fold each section over and attach in the middle with a brad.

RIVER DAMS

Dams are built on the rivers to prevent flooding. You know that there is a dam in a town if the town's name ends in "dam," such as Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

- **Town Search** – Look at a map of the Netherlands and try to find cities that have a name that ends in "dam." Make a list of the cities that have a dam.

TULIPS

The Netherlands is famous for growing flowers. Thousands of different kinds of tulips are grown for bulbs. These bulbs are sold all over the world.

- **Tulips** – If you have tulips growing at your house, there is a good chance that they came from the Netherlands. Make tulips by cutting out the sections of an egg carton. Paint each individual section. Glue the egg carton sections on a piece of construction paper, draw a stem, and add green construction paper leaves.

HOLIDAYS

BIRTHDAYS

People in the Netherlands make birthdays an extra special event. The person whose birthday it is gets to stay in bed and sleep late. The family comes in singing, "Lang Zal Hij/Zij Leven," (Long May He/She live). The birthday person gets presents and candies. Even at school or work the birthday person is made to feel very special. In the evening friends and family gather to continue the celebration.

The Queen's birthday is a National Holiday. Parades are held, flags are displayed, and people carry flowers to the Queen. Birthdays are important because the Dutch have a great respect for growing old. Senior citizens are valued and treated with respect.

- **Plan A Birthday Party** – Plan a group birthday party for everyone in your classroom with a cake, candles, and presents. Ask each of the children to bring a small gift to school (a gift that either a boy or girl would like). The gift should cost under $2.00. All the wrapped gifts are put in a box. The children take turns picking out a gift and guessing who it was from.

ST. NICHOLAS (Sinterklass) DAY

St. Nicholas was a bishop of the Catholic Church. He was a generous man who was known for doing good and giving gifts to the poor. He is the patron saint of sailors and children. The people of the Netherlands have built many churches in honor of St. Nicholas.

December 6, the day of St. Nicholas' death, has become a special holiday. On December 5, the children wait at their homes until a man dressed in red and white robes comes to their house and asks if the children have been good and if they say their prayers. If the children have been good and say their prayers, he leaves them a present.

(Note to Teacher: You may not want to tell your class this part of the history, but the Dutch brought the custom of St. Nicholas to America. The English settlers changed his name from Sinterklass to Santa Claus.)

- **Sinterklass Gift-giving Poetry** – Today when people give gifts on Sinterklass Day they usually write a poem to accompany the gift. Write a poem that you would put on a gift.

CHRISTMAS

Gift-giving in December in the Netherlands is done on St. Nicholas Eve. The Christmas holiday is a religious event. One unique Dutch tradition is the Midwinter Horn Blowing. The month before Christmas, farmers hollow thin logs and make horns. These horns are used to announce that Christmas is coming. On Christmas Day people attend church and have family gatherings.

- **Holiday Traditions** – Compile a list of special holiday traditions from the children in your class. For example, carrots left out for the reindeer, cookies for Santa, special ethnic foods, Christmas cookies, advent calendars, nativities, etc.

MEMORIAL DAY

Many countries have a memorial day on which people honor those who died in war. The Netherlands has a short and emotionally moving tradition – at exactly eight o'clock in the evening on May 4, everything stops! Cars, buses, and trucks pull off the road, people stop whatever they are doing, and even the radio and television programs stop. The entire country is silent. They are remembering the end of World War II and are praying for peace.

- **Everyone Quiet!** – Re-enact this holiday at your school. Ask the other teachers and staff to assist you with this project. Plan a day and time when the entire school will be quiet for a few minutes. Ask everyone to remember people/family members who have died and think silently about a peaceful world.

Finish the Story

Look at the picture. How do you think this story will end?

RUSSIA

Russia (part of the former Soviet Union) is the largest of the Independent States. Russia had been part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) – a communist society. In 1991, after years of rapid change and turmoil, the communist government fell and Russia, along with several other former republics, formed the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Former Soviet republics provide part of Russia's borders. Kazakhstan lies to the southeast, the Ukraine to the southwest; and Belarus, Latvia, and Estonia to the west. The country of Finland and the Arctic Ocean form Russia's northern border. The Pacific Ocean is to the west of Russia. Mongolia and China are directly south of Russia.

Lake Baikal, the world's deepest lake, is found in southern Russia.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color Lake Baikal blue.
2. Draw a seal in the Arctic Ocean.
3. Draw a boat in the Pacific Ocean.
4. Color Russia green.

THE PEOPLE

RUSSIA'S ETHNIC HERITAGE

There are over 148 million people living in Russia. Although the majority of the people are ***Slavs***, there are over one hundred nationalities and over fifty languages spoken. The largest minorities are the Tatars from Mongolia, the Ukrainians from the Ukraine, and the Chuvashes who originally came from Finland.

- **What Nationality Are You?** – On a map find Mongolia, the Ukraine, and Finland. Ask the children if they know their ethnic heritage. Make a list of all the nationalities represented in your classroom. If the children do not know what their nationality is, make it a homework assignment.

NEW RUSSIA

Russia is a country experiencing rapid change. Russia had been the largest republic in the fifteen-member Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The USSR had been a communistic government. In 1991 several Soviet leaders issued a declaration that the USSR no longer existed. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev resigned. In the summer of 1991, Boris Yeltsin won Russia's first democratic election for President. Eleven ex-soviet republics joined with Russia to form the Commonwealth of Independent States.

- **Alphabetical Order in the USSR** – Look on a map (made before 1991) and locate the fifteen members of the USSR – Lithuania, Belarus, Molodova, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia. Write down these names and put them in alphabetical order.

APARTMENT LIVING

In the cities of Russia, most people live in apartment buildings. A family of four would most likely live in a small apartment with one bedroom, a kitchen, and bathroom – while the children would sleep on couches in the living room.

- **A Four-room Apartment** – Draw a floor plan of a Russian apartment. Draw in the furniture and the people.

SCHOOL

Russian children must go to school for at least ten years – from the ages of seven to seventeen. Children in grades one to four go to school six days a week for four and one-half hours a day. They study reading, writing, art, math, physical education, and music. In grade four, nature and history are added to the curriculum and the children begin having a different teacher for every subject. In grades five through eight, the children study language, botany, geography, physiology, algebra, zoology, astronomy, chemistry, history, and a foreign language. Children in grades one through four have about two hours of homework a night. More than two hours of homework is expected in grades five through eight. Almost everyone living in Russia can read and write.

- **What Do They Study?** – Find out about the study of zoology, chemistry, geography, astronomy, and physiology. Which ones would you like to study? Make a chart and list each of the above categories at the top of the chart – under each category write the types of careers one could expect after studying that particular subject (i.e. zoology – zookeeper, veterinarian, animal researcher, pet shop owner, etc.).

HOLIDAYS AND FOOD

NEW YEAR'S

The people in Russia celebrate New Year's in much the same way as Americans celebrate Christmas. People bring home fir and balsam trees and decorate them. There are many parties where the children eagerly await the arrival of ***Deuska Moroz*** (Grandfather Frost) and the Snow Maiden. Deuska Moroz always arrives with gifts for the children. At midnight all the people go out into the streets cheering.

- **Grandfather Frost** – Draw a picture of what you think Grandfather Frost looks like. (Hint: He wears a long red robe, a white fur-trimmed hat, and has a white beard.)
- **Matrioska Dolls** – Martrioska dolls are a popular gift in Russia. They are six wooden dolls, varying in size, that nest inside of each other. Use the patterns on pages 78 & 79 to reproduce the patterns on white construction paper. Color and cut out the dolls. Fold and staple. Each doll will fit into the next.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8. On this day husbands, fathers, sons – all men – find themselves doing extra chores, bringing gifts, and doing special things to honor the women in their lives. Schools and offices are closed.

- **Create a Holiday** – International Women's Day is not celebrated in other parts of the world. Design your own holiday. Choose a topic or a person that you would like to celebrate. Pick a date on the calendar. Decide on special traditions, activities, and foods that will become a part of the celebration of your holiday.

EGGS

In Russia they exchange colored eggs at Eastertime, just like many other people do in various parts of the world. This tradition has a special significance in Russia. Alexander III, the Tsar of Russia in 1884, wanted to give his wife, Tsarina Maria Feodorovna, the most beautiful Easter egg in the world. He had a jeweler named Peter Carl Faberge design this egg. He made it with white enamel, a gold yolk, and a tiny hen with jeweled eyes sitting on top of the yolk. These beautiful eggs became a tradition during the reign of this family. Every year a Faberge egg, costing thousands of dollars, was made for a member of the Tsar's family.

- **Design Your Own Faberge Egg** – Provide each of the children with a white tagboard egg shape. Let the children decorate this egg with glitter, sequins, paint, markers, etc. Encourage the children to make the most beautiful egg that they possibly can. Display the eggs on a bulletin board or wall.

FOOD

People in Russia eat a lot of potatoes, bread, and soup – ***borsch*** is a well-known favorite. Dinner is usually the largest meal of the day and consists of soup, cooked meats, potatoes, and cheese.

Here are some fun recipes to try.

- **Potato Crisps** – You will need: 2 large white potatoes and vegetable oil. Pare the potatoes and shred fine. Cover with cold water and let stand until you are ready to cook. Drain and pat dry with paper towels. In a small sauce pan, pour vegetable oil to a 2-inch depth. Heat to 350°. Fry the potatoes, heaping a tablespoon of potato at a time. Fry one minute or until crisp. Lift out with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels.

- **Borsch** – You will need: 2 carrots (1 cup pared and sliced); 1 1/2 cups shredded raw beets; 1 turnip (3/4 cup pared and diced); 1 medium sliced onion; 1 cup water; 2 tablespoons cider vinegar; 2 teaspoons salt; 1 teaspoon sugar; 6 cups beef stock; 2 cups diced cooked beef; 1/2 small head cabbage (shredded).

Combine carrots, 1 cup beets, turnip, onion, water, vinegar, salt, and sugar. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Add beef stock, beef, and cabbage. Simmer 15 minutes. Stir in 1/2 cup remaining beets.

RUSSIAN ARTS

BALLET

Classical ballet has been performed for over 300 years. There have been many famous Russian ballet dancers – Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rudolph Nureyev, Anna Pavlova, Vladimir Malaknov, Vaslav Nijinsky, and Galina Stepanyenko. Many Russian children dream of becoming ballet dancers and dancing with the famous Bolshoi Ballet. Boys and girls often begin ballet lessons when they are very young.

The Nutcracker, *Sleeping Beauty*, and the folktale of *Peter and the Wolf* are beautiful pieces of music that ballet dancers bring to life on stage.

- **Peter and the Wolf** – Play the recording of the music of *Peter and the Wolf* for the children. Different instruments represent different characters in the story. Can the children guess which instrument is which character? Read the children the story of *Peter and the Wolf*. Have the children re-enact the story. Choose children to act out each character's part. Choose another group of children to play rhythm instruments during the presentation.
- **The Nutcracker** – Tell the children the story of The Nutcracker. Let the children draw a picture of their favorite part of the story while they listen to a recording of the music.

PEREPLYAS (pare-uh-plee-us)

Pereplyas is a Russian folk dance, danced by several dancers. The name "pereplyas" means to dance better and longer than the other dancers. The dancers dance long and hard, trying to outdo each other by making up new dance steps. Traditional Russian clothing is worn while performing this dance. Dancers wear embroidered shirts and baggy pants tucked in black boots.

- **Dance Contest** – Have a dance contest in your classroom. Encourage the children to try and make up as many new dance steps as possible. (Everyone who participates should win an award!)

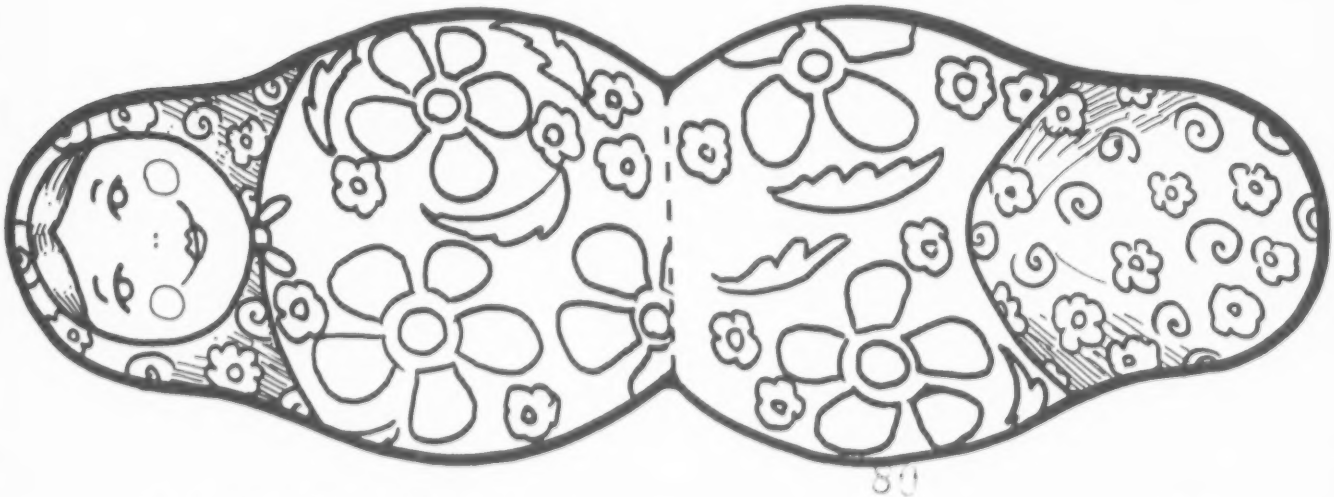
TROIKA

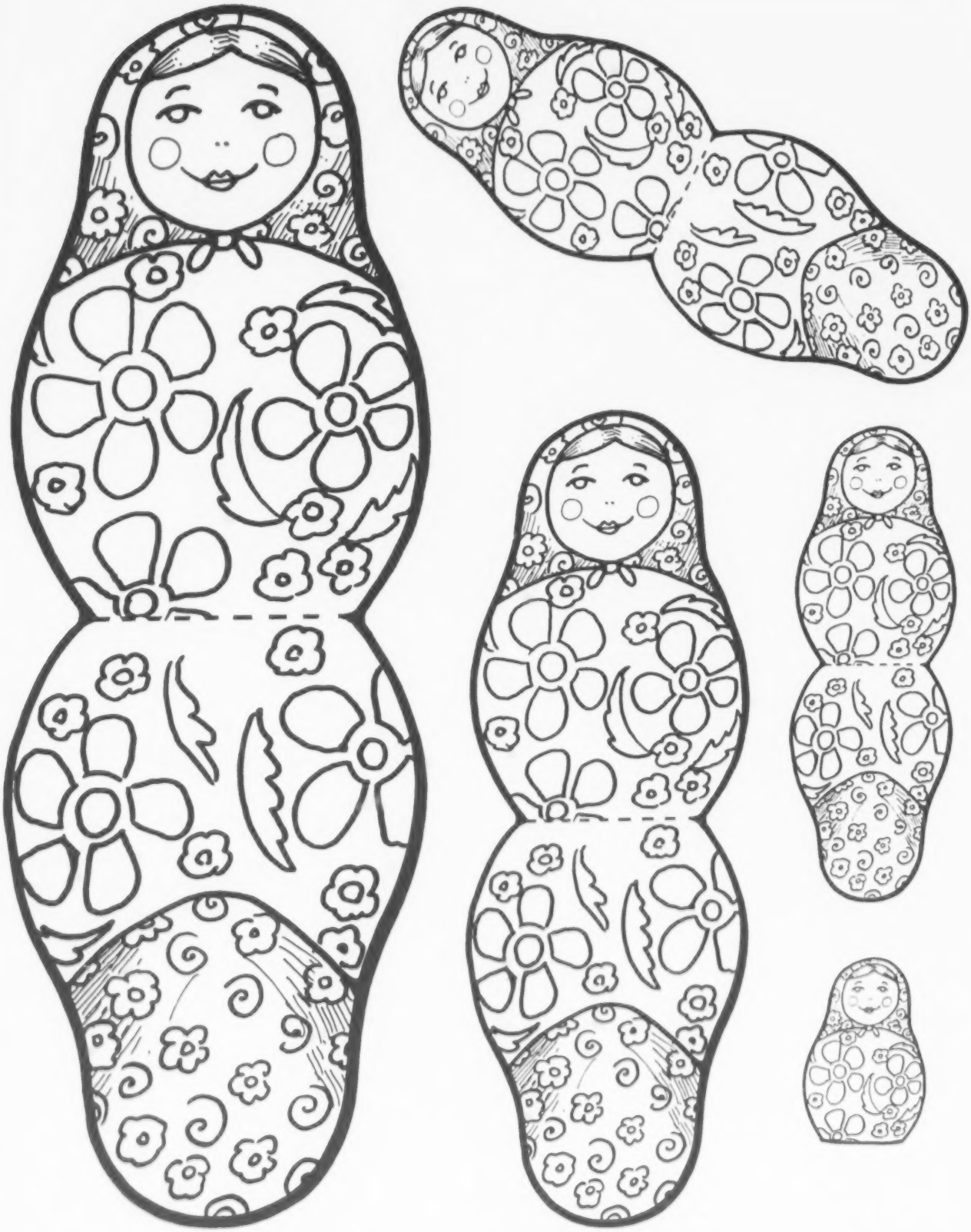
A troika is a Russian sleigh drawn by three horses. It has been used in the country and in other areas where there is a lot of snow. People walking through the snow sometimes need to wear snowshoes. Snowshoes look like large tennis rackets worn on the feet.

- **How Would You Travel In The Snow?** – Ask the children to decide how they would like to travel through the snow. Would they prefer to ride in a troika or walk on snowshoes? Have the children draw pictures of themselves traveling through the snow.

Reproduce the patterns on white construction paper. Color and cut out the dolls. Fold and staple. Each doll will fit into the next.

MATROISKA DOLLS





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SPAIN

Spain is Europe's third-largest country. Spain consists of **Mainland Spain**, the **Balearic Islands** in the Mediterranean Sea, and the **Canary Islands** off the coast of Africa.

Portugal borders Spain to the west, France and Andorra border Spain to the northwest, and Gibraltar borders Spain to the south. The Atlantic Ocean borders Spain to the north and the Mediterranean Sea is to the east.

The Meseta is a high plateau that covers most of Central Spain. It is a dry land filled with hills and mountains. The land is difficult to farm because it is so dry. Sheep are bred in all parts of Spain.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color Portugal orange.
2. Color Andorra red.
3. Color France blue.
4. Color mainland Spain brown.
5. Color the Balearic Islands purple.
6. Color the Canary Islands yellow.
7. Draw in the Pyrenees Mountains.
8. Circle Madrid, Spain's capital.

PEOPLE

CITY LIFE

About three-fourths of the people in Spain live in cities. Most everyone in the city owns and lives in an apartment. The cities in Spain are becoming more modern. The Spanish dress in western style clothing, but they still follow many traditional customs. Often stores, offices, and factories will close for several hours in the afternoon. This break is called a ***siesta.*** When the siesta is over, people return to their work until early in the evening.

- **Classroom Siesta** – Plan a siesta for your classroom. Think of quiet activities for your mid-day break.

RURAL LIFE

Over the years, life in the country has not changed as much as life in the city. People live in villages. Their homes that are made from clay and stone and are whitewashed for protection from the sun. Many people in the country farm the land. The farmers walk or travel by donkey down the dirt roads to reach their farmland.

People in rural villages do not take a mid-day siesta break. Instead, they enjoy an evening ***paseo***, when they sit and visit in the town square. Almost every Spanish village has a town square. The town square is an important part of village life. There is often a church at one end of the town square.

- **Town Squares** – What would you find in a town square? (outdoor markets, outdoor cafes, church, shops, gardens, people.) Brainstorm ideas and have the children draw their own version of what they think a town square would look like.

SPANISH HOMES

There are a variety of Spanish homes. In the south, where it gets very hot, the homes are made of thick walls and very small windows. This type of structure keeps a home cooler because it does not allow heat to enter the home. In the northern regions, the homes have larger windows, often covered with beautiful black ironwork. Almost all the homes in this area have a ***mirador*** (balcony) with glass walls on three sides to keep the wind out.

- **Spanish Home** – Make a Spanish home from the following playdough recipe: 1 cup salt, 2 cups sifted flour, 6 teaspoons alum, 2 tablespoons salad oil, 1 cup water. Mix all together. The playdough will stay soft for several weeks if kept in a plastic bag.

FOOD

The Spanish enjoy preparing foods and sharing mealtimes together. Breakfast comes early in the morning. They eat early so they can do as much work as possible before the heat of the day becomes too intense. Their lunch meal is eaten around two o'clock and may go on for a couple of hours. Their evening meal is often between eight o'clock and ten o'clock.

The Spanish eat a wide variety of foods. Here are some fun recipes.

- **Paella** – Paella is one of Spain's best-known dishes. Fry 2 sliced onions in olive oil. Add chopped clove of garlic, 2 chopped red or green peppers, 12 black olives, and several chicken livers. Mix together in frying pan. Pour over 12 ounces of rice and fry until all the oil has been absorbed. Add the flesh of one small cooked lobster, 1 pint mussels and prawns, a few pieces of cooked whitefish, and 4 sliced tomatoes. Pour one-half pint of boiling water over mixture and heat until rice is tender.
- **Gazpacho** – This is a well-known cold soup. Here is an easy classroom recipe: You will need 1 pound seedless green grapes; 3 cucumbers; 1 shallot, sliced; 1 small clove of garlic, finely chopped; 1/4 teaspoon salt; 1/4 teaspoon pepper; 2 cups plain lowfat yogurt; 5 to 8 drops of hot red-pepper sauce (be careful!)

Purée grapes in a blender. Strain the purée through a sieve and put back in the blender. Peel and cut cucumbers into small pieces. Add to the blender. Add shallot, garlic, salt and pepper. Blend for a short time so the cucumbers are in fine pieces. Pour into chilled serving bowl. Whisk in yogurt and red-pepper sauce. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

TRADITIONS & CUSTOMS

BULLFIGHTING

Bullfighting is a national sport in Spain. This spectacle involves a ***matador*** (bullfighter) who fights a bull in a ***plaza de toros*** (public area/bullring). The bullfight begins with a parade and ceremony. First the ***banderilleros*** (matador's helpers) walk in, followed by the ***picadores*** (matador's helpers on horseback). The banderilleros and picadores tease the bull and make it angry. The matador then enters the arena. He wears brightly colored clothes and holds a sword covered by a ***muleta*** (red cloth). Bullfighting can be described as cruel, but it is so much a part of the culture that people continue its practice.

- **What Do You Think of Bullfighting?** – Divide the children into cooperative learning groups of four. Have them make a bullfighting poster. One child draws the bull, one draws the matador, one draws the banderilleros and one draws the picadores on horseback. Create a slogan advertising the bullfight.
- **Advertise a Bullfight** – Have the children design a costume for the matador to wear. Explain to the children that the matador often wears silk or satin decorated with spangles, jewels and gold thread.

FIESTAS

Fiesta means "feast" or "festival." Many of the Spanish fiestas center around the Catholic Church. Each village in Spain has a chosen patron saint of the Catholic Church and each patron saint has a special day. On these special days a fiesta is planned.

The people begin the fiesta by going to church where they pray and thank their patron saint for his protection. When the church service ends, the people carry the statue of the patron saint in a parade through the town. When the parade ends, and the statue is returned to the church, the "festive" part of the fiesta begins. People spend the rest of the day eating, dancing, singing, and enjoying one another's company.

Not all fiestas are religious. One of the best-known fiestas takes place in Valencia and is called ***fallas.*** Large papier mâché figures are used to decorate the streets and are also carried in the parades. All fiestas include floats in the parades.

- **Classroom Fiesta** – Work in cooperative learning groups and plan a classroom fiesta. Each group should plan a food to bring to the fiesta and make a float. (Ask three or four parents if you could borrow wagons). The children can have a parade with their floats and enjoy tasting the food that each group has prepared.
- **Papier Mâché Heads** – Each child can also make a papier mâché head to decorate the classroom. Blow up a balloon for each child. Use strips of torn newspaper and wallpaper paste. Powdered wallpaper paste is inexpensive and easy to use (just add water).

FLAMENCO DANCING

The ***flamenco*** is a lively Spanish folk dance. There are many different kinds of flamenco dancing. Some of the flamenco dances are danced only by men, some only by women, and some by men and women together. The dancers wear beautiful costumes. The women wear silk dresses with rows and rows of frills on the skirt. As they dance the frills swirl around and around. They wear their hair up on top of their heads with a lace scarf. The men wear waist jackets, round-brimmed hats, and boots with large heels. They stamp their feet as they dance to the guitar music and castanets.

- **You Can Dance the Flamenco!** – Your local library should have flamenco records available for checking out. Play the music, provide the children with tambourines and castanets, and let them experiment!

CASTLES, CATHEDRALS & FAMOUS SPANIARDS

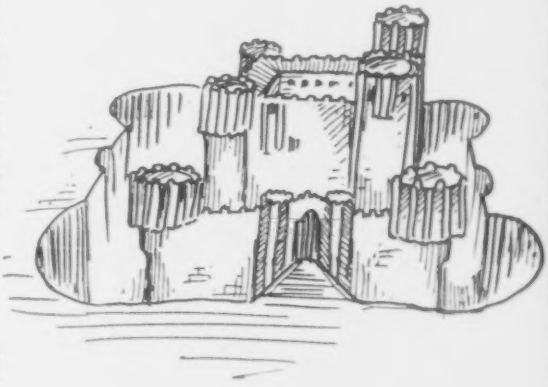
CATHEDRALS

Ninety-nine percent of the people in Spain are baptized Roman Catholic. Spain is filled with many beautiful cathedrals because the church is so important to daily life and their culture. Throughout Spain one can see elaborate architecture: huge columns, pointed towers, and statues adorn the buildings. Many of the cathedrals were built during the Christian Middle Ages.

- **Classroom Cathedral** – Ask the children to bring in shoe boxes. Lay newspaper on the classroom floor. You will build the cathedral on top of the newspaper. Glue the shoes boxes together to form an interesting cathedral and reinforce with masking tape. When the glue is dry, paint the cathedral gray to resemble stone. Add detail in a darker shade of gray paint or with magic marker.

CASTLES

Spain has some of the world's most beautiful ***akcazars*** (castles). Castles were first built in feudal times when much of Europe was in constant war. The castle served as a protected home and prison, as well as a center of government. Some castles were built on steep hills and other castles were built on flat ground. The strongest part of the castle is called a ***donjon*** or "keep" – a tower-like structure made with thick walls. The family lived in this part of the castle because it was the safest and the easiest to defend. Most castles have towers located at the corners or around the castle. People could stand in the towers and watch who was coming.



- **Design Your Own Alcazar** – Who is going to live with you? family? friends? servants? soldiers? How many people do you think you need to run your castle?
- **Build a Castle** – Ask each of the children to bring in two boxes of sugar cubes. Have the children build a castle with a sturdy paper plate, sugar cubes, and white glue. Let the children practice building the castle before they begin gluing the sugar cubes together.

FAMOUS SPANISH EXPLORERS

Christopher Columbus was sent on the voyage that took him to North America by King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella. From this point on, many Spanish explorers adventured to the New World.

Juan Ponce de León - was a Spanish explorer and conqueror. He conquered Puerto Rico and explored Florida. Ponce de León searched for the fictitious "Fountain of Youth," which was never found.

Hernando de Soto – was a Spanish explorer who led the first European expedition to reach the Mississippi River in 1541. He was also involved in the Spanish conquest of the Inca Empire in South America in the 1530s.

Hernando Cortés – was a Spanish adventurer who conquered what is now southern and central Mexico. Cortés is often remembered as the greatest Spanish conqueror of the Americas.

Francisco Pizarro – was a Spanish conqueror whose conquest of the Inca Empire in Peru led the way for Spain's colonization of most of South America.

- **Become an Explorer** – Plan a voyage to some new unchartered territory. Draw a picture of the boat you will sail. Make a list of all the things that you will need on your voyage.

SWEDEN

Sweden is the largest of the Scandinavian countries. It is a long and narrow country; a little larger than California. Norway borders Sweden to the west, while Finland, the Gulf of Bothnia, and the Baltic Sea are to the east. Denmark lies to the south across the waters of the Skagerrak and Kattegat Bays.

Sweden is divided into four regions:

The Mountain Range is part of the Kölen Mountains. Sweden and Norway share this mountain range. Hundreds of glaciers cover the highest parts of these mountains. Sweden's highest mountain is Mount Kebriekaise, which is 6,926 feet (2,111 meters) tall.

The Inner Northland is a hilly region, covered in huge forests of pine and spruce trees. There are many rivers running through these forests.

The Swedish Lowland is the most populated region. The farming is excellent in this region. Sweden's two largest lakes are located in this region: Lake Vänern – 2,156 square miles (5,584 square kilometers); and Lake Vättern – 738 square miles (1,911 square kilometers).

The South Swedish Highland is also called Götaland Plateau. It is a rocky upland that rises 1,200 feet (366 meters) above sea level. It is mostly covered with forests and scattered with small lakes and swamps.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color Norway pink. Color Finland purple. Color Denmark yellow.
2. Color the Gulf of Bothnia blue.
3. On the map of Sweden, draw and color each land region the color of its description.

PEOPLE

GOVERNMENT

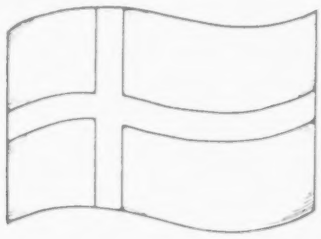
Sweden is a constitutional monarchy. King Charles XVI Gustav has been king of Sweden since 1973. The king does not have much power and has become a ceremonial figure. The ***Prime Minister*** and the ***Cabinet*** (selected by the Prime Minister) holds the executive power. The Parliament (called the ***Riksdag***) is comprised of 349 members elected by the people to three year terms. The Speaker of the Riksdag nominates the Prime Minister and that nomination must be confirmed by the Riksdag. The Riksdag also appoints an official called an ***Ombudsman***. The Ombudsman investigates complaints of the citizens.

- **Swedish Government** – Organize your class into the Swedish government system. Elect the Riksdag first and then follow Sweden's system by assigning other classmates to jobs.
- **The Ombudsman** – Let the children take turns being the Ombudsman. Let the Ombudsman investigate classroom disputes or complaints.

SWEDISH FLAG

The Swedish flag was first used in the mid-1400s and was officially adopted in 1663. The colors of the flag come from the national coat of arms.

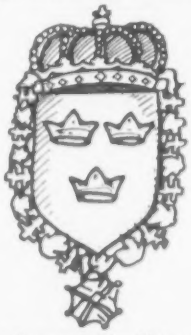
- **Make a Flag** – The children can each make a Swedish flag from blue and yellow construction paper.



SWEDISH COAT OF ARMS

Sweden's coat of arms has three small crowns in the center. King Albert added these crowns in 1364. The coat of arms became official in 1908.

- **My Own Coat Of Arms** – Have the children design a coat of arms for their family.

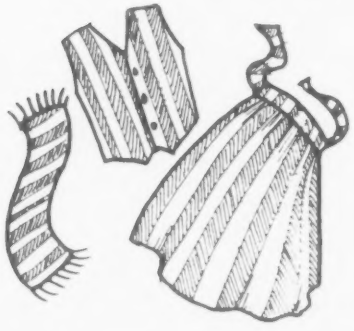


FOOD

Most people have heard the word ***smörgåsbord***. Sweden is famous for this style of serving meals. Foods are placed on a long table and eaten in a certain order.

1. Cold fish dishes such as shrimp, eel, sardines, and salmon are eaten first.
2. Next comes cold meats such as liver pâté, smoked reindeer, or a ham and vegetable salad.
3. Small hotdishes such as meatballs, omelets, sausages, or cooked herring are third.
4. Finally, for dessert, you will find such foods as pastry, fresh fruit, or cheese.

- **Prepare a Smörgåsbord** – This is a fun classroom experience. Choose a food from each of the four groups and let the children sample each food.



TRADITIONAL/NATIONAL COSTUMES

The people in Sweden dress very much like Americans. In some villages on certain holidays people will dress in an old-world traditional style of clothing. The women wear long skirts with a striped apron on the front of the skirt, white blouses, and colorful vests. The men wear slacks, long jackets and striped vests. Each province in Sweden has its own particular pattern of stripes.

- **Striped Clothes** – Have the children design a striped outfit for themselves.

HOLIDAYS AND SPORTS

ST. LUCIA DAY

The Christmas season begins on December 13 with the St. Lucia celebration. The St. Lucia celebration is also a Festival of Lights. The Swedish people are celebrating the return of more daylight hours to their dark winter months. A girl in each family plays the part of St. Lucia. She wakes early in the morning and puts on a white dress and wears a crown of pine boughs and seven lighted candles. Dressed in this spectacular costume she wakes the family and serves them cakes and coffee in bed.

- **Construction Paper Crowns** – Let the children make construction paper crowns. Cut a green construction paper strip of paper large enough to fit a child's head. Staple ends together. Add seven construction paper candles to the crown.
- **Celebrate St. Lucia Day** – Have the children pretend that they are in bed. Awaken the children wearing one of the construction paper crowns and serve them pretend coffee (chocolate milk) and Lucia buns (cinnamon rolls).

CHRISTMAS

In Sweden some children believe that a small calf, called ***Yulltomte***, sometimes takes the place of Santa Claus. He works in secret, remaining hidden under the floorboards. The work of Christmas would never get done without him. The children place a dish of rice pudding, called ***juulgrot***, on the floor before they go to bed on Yule Eve.

- **What Does the Calf Look Like?** – Draw a picture of what you think this calf looks like.
- **Make Rice Pudding**– Do you like it?

MIDSUMMER'S EVE

Midsummer's Eve is celebrated on the Friday that falls between June 19 and June 26. This is a very festive celebration of the return of summer to Sweden. The people stay up all night dancing around brightly colored Maypoles.

- **Maypole** – Make a Maypole in class. Place a long pole in a bucket of sand or other material to prevent the pole from falling over. Have the children wrap colored crepe paper streamers around the pole. At the top of the pole tape or tie long strips of crepe paper streamers. Construction paper flowers may be added to the top and sides of the pole.

FLAG DAY

Flag Day is observed on June 6. The king presents the national flag to various Swedish organizations at a special ceremony. It is a day when the Swedish people display how proud they are to be Swedish.

- **Patriotic Poetry** – As a class, write a poem about why you are proud of your country.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

The Swedish people love to be outdoors. They enjoy a variety of winter sports, but cross-country skiing is probably their favorite. There is a famous cross-country winter ski race called the ***Vasa Race*** which is 55 miles (89 kilometers) long.

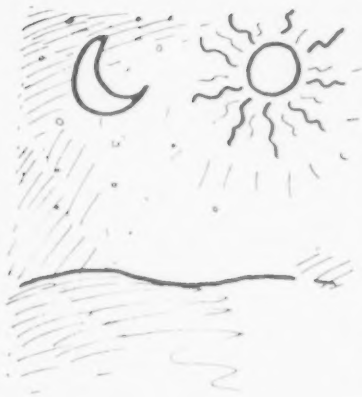
- **Bulletin Board** – Make a bulletin board featuring this famous race. Line the bottom of the bulletin board with white construction paper or cotton batting. The top of the bulletin board should be blue. Have each child in the class draw, color, and cut out a cross-country skier.

FISHING AND HUNTING

Fishing and hunting are favorite activities in Sweden. Moose, reindeer, wolf, elk, fox, pike, trout, and salmon are all common game animals found in Sweden.

- **Poster Animals** – As a cooperative learning project divide your class into eight groups. Have each group make a poster of one of the animals listed above, illustrating the animals and writing a short paragraph about that animal. Put the posters together to form a big book.

HISTORICAL SWEDEN



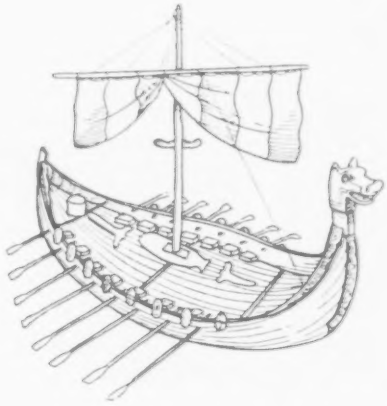
THE ICE AGE & THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Sweden was one of the last regions to lose the glacial ice that once covered most of Europe. Around 6000 B.C., the ice melted and the people from the Baltic Sea area settled on the southern tip of Sweden. They moved farther north as the weather improved. The northern tip of Sweden reaches into the Arctic Circle, into a wilderness called Lapland. This land is also known as *"The Land of the Midnight Sun."* It is called this because there is a period every mid-summer when the sun shines twenty-four hours a day and then finally disappears altogether around Christmas.

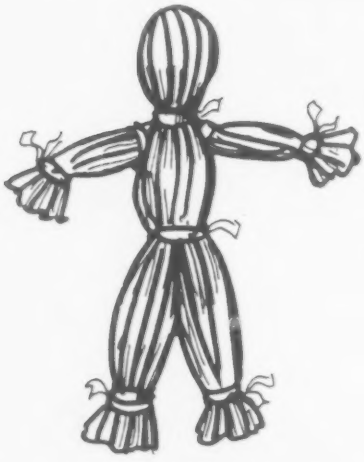
- **Make a Comparison Drawing** – Have the children fold a piece of paper in half. On one side of the paper have them draw a picture of Lapland at midnight during mid-summer. On the other half of the paper have them draw a picture of Lapland at noon on Christmas.

VIKINGS

The Vikings were Scandinavian adventurers who sailed to many parts of the world from A.D.800 to A.D.1000. The Vikings from Norway and Denmark sailed west. The Swedish Vikings traveled east across Russia. The Vikings conquered new lands and traded for gold and other riches. During this time they developed a beautiful artistic style in animal interlace decorations. This art form is seen on many old Viking ships — especially large burial ships. The Vikings believed that sending a deceased person out in a ship made the passage into death *(volhalla)* smoother. Often the ship was filled with personal belongings of the deceased person.The finely carved bow and stern posts are a typical example of this art.



- **A Viking Ship** – Draw an outline of a Viking ship on brown construction paper. Cut out the ship. Using a black felt-tipped pen, draw a design on the bow and stern of the ship. Glue your ship to a piece of blue construction paper.



STRAW TOYS

The Swedish people use straw to make a variety of objects such as ornaments, placemats, coasters, and brooms. Straw is also shaped and tied to form horses or dolls.

- **Straw Dolls** – Follow the illustration to make a straw doll. Use straw (available at a local craft store) or use pipe cleaners. Tie together with yarn as shown in the illustration. Use scrap fabric to make clothing for your doll.

THAILAND

Thailand was known as Siam until just before World War II. The Thais decided to name their country "Thailand," which translates to "Land of the Free."

Thailand is located in Southeast Asia. It is shaped like an axe with the handle pointing south. It is bordered by Burma on the west and north, by Laos on the north and northeast, by Kampuchea (Cambodia) on the east, and by Malaysia on the southern tip. The Gulf of Thailand is on Thailand's southeast coast.

Thailand is filled with beautiful mountains in the north, rich fertile plains in central Thailand, and wild jungles in the south.

Thailand has a warm climate, lots of sunshine, plenty of rain and rich soil. It is no wonder that Thailand has been called the "Land of Smiles."

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Color Burma orange.
2. Color Laos yellow.
3. Color Kampuchea red.
4. Color Malaysia pink.
5. Color the South Sea of China blue.
6. Color Thailand green.

PEOPLE

THE THAIS IN THE VILLAGES

The people in Thailand belong to the ethnic group called Thais. They are descendants of people who migrated from China. In the villages of Thailand large families often live together. It is common for a family to share a home with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, as well as parents, brothers, and sisters.

Breakfast is prepared over a charcoal fire. When the children awaken they are responsible for feeding the family's livestock. Bathing is done in the rivers and streams. After everyone has bathed (cleanliness is important), children go off to school, men go to work in the fields and the women continue to do chores at home. The workday is much longer during the planting and harvesting seasons. More than 70 percent of the people in Thailand farm for a living.

- **Who Lives at Your House?** – How many people live in your family house? Can you imagine living with all your relatives in the same house? Make a list of all the relatives that you can remember. If they all moved into your house, where would they sleep?

VILLAGE HOMES

There are three types of villages in Thailand: villages along a river are stretched out in a line; villages in a forest are clustered together; and farming villages are groups of small farmhouses. Near each farmhouse is a grain storehouse. The roofs of all these homes are usually pointed and are made from thatched straw.

CITY LIFE IN BANGKOK

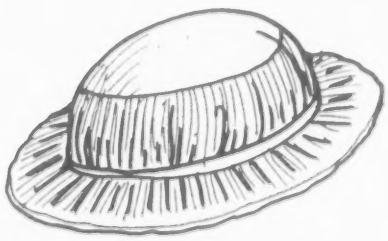
Bangkok is Thailand's only large city. It is a noisy city filled with cars, trucks, motorcycles, and three-wheeled vehicles called ***tuk-tuks***. One can see old traditions in the city, but one also sees movie theaters, two-parent working families, international corporations, Buddhist temples, and rush-hour traffic. There is a sharp contrast between life in the city and life in the country.

Many people in Bangkok live in "shop houses." The store is on the first floor and the upper floors are where the family lives. Another type of home found in Bangkok is a small home built on stilts. This design keeps the house dry during the rainy season.

- **House on Stilts** – Draw a picture of a house on stilts. The rainy season in Thailand lasts from June to October. During this season it rains every day!

TRADITIONAL CLOTHING

People living in the city often wear "western style" clothing. For many centuries women wore a ***paa sin***, a long skirt made from a tube of fabric. The tube was folded in the front to fit properly and a belt was added to hold the skirt in place. A ***sabai*** (silk shawl) was draped over the shoulders. Today, women often wear large-brimmed straw hats when working in the fields. Farmers wear a shirt, and shorts, and a ***phakhaoma*** (cloth that is tied around the waist.)



- **Straw Hats** – Make straw hats from dinner-size paper plates. Cut a circle out of the center of the paper plate. Cut a large circle out of a sheet of newspaper and mold it to the shape of a head. Tape the edges of the newspaper underneath the brim of the hat (paper plate). Paint the entire hat yellow. Let dry.

AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRY

RICE

Thailand is the only country in Asia that produces enough food to feed its own people and still has a sufficient reserve to export. Rice is grown in the central plains. The entire year is planned around the rice season. Everyone, including older children, helps with the planting. Often water buffalo are used to plow the fields.

The fields are irrigated with water and rice seedlings are planted. The planting begins right before the rainy season starts. It rains every day and the fields become flooded. Flooded rice fields are called rice paddys. The rice continues to grow and is harvested. Farmers work together and go from field to field cutting down the rice with sickles. Then they lay the rice out to dry.

- **Let's Eat Rice** – Make rice in your classroom. Minute rice is the easiest to use in a classroom. Purchase a variety of rice for the children to examine: brown rice, wild rice, white rice, etc. It is fun to look at the rice with a magnifying glass.

SILK WORMS

In northeast Thailand, between 300,000 and 400,000 families work in the raising of silkworms and the production of silk fibers.

An adult female moth lives for only five days. During that time she lays between 350 and 600 eggs. When the silkworms hatch from the eggs they are in the larvae stage of life. The larvae period lasts four weeks. During those four weeks, all the larvae do is eat mulberry leaves. This is the only food that will help the silkworm in the creation of silk fibers.

When the larvae period ends the silkworm begins to spin a cocoon made from the silk fibers. When the cocoon is finished it is dropped into boiling water. The insect dies and the silk fibers can be removed. The silk fibers (silk threads) are sold to silk brokers in Bangkok where the threads are dried, dyed, and made into cloth.

- **Learning More about Silk** – Have the children make a list of things made from silk. Bring in a variety of items for the children to touch that are made of silk.
- **A Silkworm Pet** – Silkworms for the classroom are available through craft stores, and educational supply stores. A silkworm is an excellent learning experience – children can actually observe the silkworm spin a cocoon!

LUMBER AND THE ELEPHANTS

Teak trees provide beautiful wood that is highly sought-after for furniture manufacturing, ship-building, and carving. Northern Thailand has forests filled with teakwood trees.

The lumber industry in Thailand is unique because of its use of elephants. The forests where the teakwood grows are located on steep hills and mountains. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to use trucks and other machinery to haul the lumber. It is the elephants' job to pick up the lumber with their tusks and carry it to the river where the logs are floated downstream until they reach the lumber mills.

The most unique part of this process is that the elephants go to school to learn their jobs. They attend the Center for Training Baby Elephants. The training begins when the elephant is a calf and lasts until the elephant is ten years old. The elephants get a three-month vacation each year during the hot season.

- **Research Elephants** – How long does an elephant live? How much does an elephant weigh? When is an elephant full-grown? How are Asian elephants different from African elephants? Draw a picture of an Asian elephant.

TAPIOCA

Tapioca is almost as large an industry in Thailand as the production of rice. Tapioca comes from the roots of the cassava plant. These roots are 2 to 8 inches thick and 1 to 4 feet long.

- **Instant Tapioca Pudding** – Tapioca is a healthy food and is easily digested. Make some instant tapioca pudding for your class. You may be surprised to discover how many children have never tasted tapioca.

INTERESTS IN THAILAND

MANNERS

Manners are extremely important to the people of Thailand. Here are some manners you have probably never heard of. 1) Never touch someone's head. Thai people keep their head lower than the head of any person who is their elder – this shows respect. 2) Feet are lowly. People must never sit with their feet pointing at anyone. People should sit with their feet tucked under their body. 3) Never greet anyone with a handshake. The "Wai" greeting is traditional. Put hands together as if praying and bow to the other person.

- **Manners** – Try to follow these manners for one day.

THAILAND'S ANIMALS

Thailand has two animals that work for the people – the water buffalo which plow the fields; and the elephants, which haul lumber. Besides these animals, Thailand has many other fascinating animals. Himalayan bears, tigers, and leopards live in the mountain forests. Monkeys are found throughout Thailand. Flying squirrels, lizards, gibbons, deer, and panthers live in the rainforests. Crocodiles are found in the rivers. Thailand has more than 500 species of butterflies.

- **Beautiful Butterflies** – Cover the background of a bulletin board with a forest scene. Let the children draw the scene in pencil and then color or paint it. Each child can then create his/her own unique butterfly. Provide younger children with a butterfly shape cut out (older children can draw and cut out their own shapes). Let the children use crayons, colored tissue paper, paint, or markers to give their butterflies color.

CRAFTS

Chiang Mai is the craft city. Each section of the city has its own special craft. A few examples of the city's crafts include: wood carving (teakwood), paper and bamboo umbrella painting, basket-weaving, lacquerware, silversmiths, and silk clothing.

- **Umbrellas** – The painted paper umbrellas in Thailand are beautiful. Children learn this craft at a very young age. At a party store you can purchase small paper umbrellas (party favors or the umbrellas that are placed in fancy beverages). Let the children paint their own design on the small umbrellas.
- **Silver Bracelets** – Paint elbow macaroni using silver spray paint. Let dry. Have the children string the macaroni into bracelets. They can pretend that they are silversmiths.

TEMPLES

About 95 percent of the Thais are Buddhists. Buddhism is a religion. One of the features of Thailand is its many Buddhist temples and shrines. Tiny shrines can be found everywhere in Thailand. They look like a small gazebo with a statue of Buddha inside. There are shrines at gas stations, hotels, factories, gardens, and homes.

The Buddhist temples are tall, with pointed roofs consisting of several tiers. The roofs are edged with ornaments. Inside the temple is a statue of Buddha. The largest temple in Bangkok is Wat Pho. Inside this temple is a statue of Buddha lying on its side. The statue is 150 feet (46 meters) long and 50 feet (15 meters) high. Wat Trimitr is famous for its solid gold Buddha.

- **Look at the Temples** – Show the children photographs of the Buddhist temples. They are a beautiful sight. Have the children try to draw a Buddhist temple.
- **Let's Measure Buddha** – The largest state of Buddha is 150 feet long. Take the children outside and have them measure a length that is 150 feet long.

UNITED STATES

The United States of America consists of fifty states and the nation's capital, the District of Columbia. Two of the states, Alaska and Hawaii, are separated from the other forty-eight states. Alaska is in the upper northwest corner of the North American continent – sharing a border with Canada. Hawaii is an island state in the Pacific Ocean.

The forty-eight states cover a large section of North America. Canada borders the United States to the north; the Atlantic Ocean is off the east coast; the Pacific Ocean is off the west coast; and the Gulf of Mexico and the country of Mexico provide the United States with its southern borders.

The United States has a diverse range of landscapes, including deserts in the southwest; the Great lakes in the north and northeast; and, the Rocky Mountains, which extend from Canada through the United States and into Mexico. Snow covers the highest Rocky Mountain peaks all year long. The Mississippi River is one of the longest rivers in the world. It begins in Minnesota and flows into the Gulf of Mexico.

THINGS TO DO ON THE MAP

1. Draw in the Hawaiian islands.
2. Color the Great Lakes blue.
3. Draw in the state of Alaska.
4. Color the Rocky Mountains brown.
5. Color Mexico yellow.
6. Color Canada orange.
7. Draw a fish in the Gulf of Mexico.
8. Draw an American flag by Washington, D.C.
9. Trace the Mississippi River system in blue.

USA SYMBOLS

AMERICAN FLAG

The red, white, and blue flag of the United States of America is often called the "Stars and Stripes." No matter where the flag is displayed in the United States it represents the land, the people, the government, the principles of the United States, and its history. The colors of the flag each have a particular meaning: the ***red*** is for hardiness and courage, the ***white*** is for purity and innocence, and the ***blue*** is for justice and perserverance. The ***stripes*** represent the thirteen original colonies, and the ***stars*** represent each of the fifty states. A ***military fold*** is the proper way to fold an American flag. Fold it twice lengthwise to form a long strip. Then fold into triangles starting at the striped end.

- **The Stars & Stripes** – Make an American flag using red, white, and blue construction paper. Use star stickers on the blue of the flag.
- **Fold a Flag** – Learn the proper way to fold a flag. Learn the song "She's A Grand Old Flag."

THE BALD EAGLE

The bald eagle is an impressive bird that has symbolically portrayed freedom, courage, and power for centuries. Drawings of eagles have been found in caves which date to the Stone Age, and coins and emblems have proudly displayed the eagle for emperors, czars, and kings. In 1782, the United States of America adopted the bald eagle as its national bird and pictured it on the United States National Seal. The American bald eagle reaches a height of 30 to 43 inches, with a wingspan that can reach 8 feet from tip to tip. The American bald eagle was on the endangered species list but is now safe and growing in numbers because of good protection laws.

- **Design a Symbol** – Design and color a symbol for your country using an eagle.

THE LIBERTY BELL

The Liberty Bell was made in London in 1751. It weighs 2080 pounds. It was sent to Philadelphia in 1782 and cracked during a test. People melted down the cracked bell and made a new one. That bell broke also. Finally, a third bell was made – it cracked when it was rung for Chief Justice John Marshall. It is now kept in a shrine near Independence Hall.

- **What Does It Mean?** – The inscription on the Liberty Bell reads: "PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF." Discuss the meaning of this inscription with your class.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

The Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor. It was sculpted by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and given to the United States in 1885 from France as a gesture of friendship. The statue is of a proud woman holding a torch in one hand and a tablet with the date of the Declaration of Independence in the other hand. She stands 151 feet, 1 inch (46.05 meters) tall and weighs 450,000 pounds (204,000 kilograms). An elevator brings visitors to the foot of the statue. From there, visitors may walk up stairs to the observation deck in her crown.

- **Poetry** – The poem, "The New Colossus," is inscribed at the base of the statue. It was written by Emma Lazarus to help raise funds for the statue. Look up the poet's name in the encyclopedia and read her poem to the class. The last five lines are the best known.
- **Creative Writing** – Write your own poem about why you are proud of your country.

MOUNT RUSHMORE

Mount Rushmore is a huge carving in a cliff in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It features the faces of four famous American presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. It has the largest figures of any statue in the world. The head of George Washington is five stories high. Gatzon Borglum designed the statue but died before it was completed. His son finished the project. It took fourteen years to construct the faces using drills and dynamite.

- **Learn Four Facts** – Learn four facts about each of the presidents sculpted on Mount Rushmore.

GEOGRAPHIC SIGHTS

GRAND CANYON

The Grand Canyon is found in northwestern Arizona. This gigantic gorge was carved by the Colorado River. It took millions of years to carve out this magnificent sight. The canyon is about a mile (1.6 kilometers) deep, 4 to 18 miles (6 to 29 kilometers) wide, and 217 miles (349 kilometers) long. The canyon is colorful – walls of limestone, sandstone, lava and other rocks change color as the day passes.

- **Colored Sand Jars** – You will need to purchase colored sand from a craft store (or use salt and powdered food coloring) and ask parents to donate baby food glass jars. The children fill the jars with the colored sand, alternating the colors to create interesting designs.

NIAGARA FALLS

Niagara Falls is located on the Niagara River between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The river forms a border between the United States and Canada. Niagara Falls is actually two different waterfalls: Horseshoe Falls is on the Canadian side of the border. It is 173 feet (53 meters) high and 2,600 feet (792 meters) wide. American Falls is located on the United States side of the border. It is 182 feet (55 meters) high and 1,000 feet (305 meters) wide.

- **Paint a Waterfall** – Mix opaque paints to give the waterfall an interesting texture and shine. Here is a simple classroom recipe: Mix 2 egg yolks and 1 tablespoon of water. Add tempera paint and blend together.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS

The largest mountain system in North America is the Rocky Mountains. The chain extends more than 3,000 miles (4,800 kilometers) from Alaska, through Canada, and passes through the states of Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Many animals live in the Rocky Mountains – goats and bighorn sheep inhabit higher elevations; chipmunks, coyotes, moose and muskrats live in the valleys between the mountains; and bears, deer, hares, elk, squirrels, porcupines, mountain lions, and mink inhabit the forests.

- **Bulletin Board** – Let the children paint the Rocky Mountains on the background of a bulletin board. Construction paper animals can be added in their proper habitats.

EVERGLADES

The Everglades is one of the largest swamp areas in the world. It is located in southern Florida. It covers 2,746 square miles (7,112 square kilometers) beginning at Lake Okeechobee and ending near the Bay of Florida. Jungle-like plants grow throughout the Everglades. Crocodiles, alligators, turtles, frogs, manatees, pelicans, and herons are some of the wildlife that live in the Everglades.

- **Paper Bowl Turtles** – Paint the back of a paper bowl to resemble the back of a turtle's shell. Add construction paper feet, tail, and head.

MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi River is the longest river in North America. The mouth of the river begins in Minnesota and flows until it empties into the Gulf of Mexico – a total of 2,348 miles (3,779 kilometers). The Mississippi River was formed two million years ago. "Mississippi" means Big River – it was named by the Native Americans in the upper Mississippi River Valley. The Mississippi is an important means of transportation for the people in the United States. No other means of transportation can move huge masses of cargo as cheaply as the barges on the river.

- **Word Fun** – Learn to spell the word "Mississippi." Using the letters in the words "Mississippi River," how many other words can you make? (miss, sip, pipe, etc.)

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Yellowstone National Park is located in eastern Idaho, southern Montana, and northwestern Wyoming. It has become famous for its 200 ***geysers*** (Old Faithful is the best-known) and its 10,000 ***hot springs*** (Mammoth Hot Springs).

- **Research Words** – Find out what a geyser and a hot spring are.

- **EXTRA ACTIVITY** – Cover a bulletin board with an outline of a map of the United States. Draw in the above geographical sights. Include the five Great Lakes.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WHAT AND WHERE IS WASHINGTON, D.C.?

Washington, the District of Columbia, is the United States of America's national capital. It is a large city located on the Potomac River. It is bordered by Maryland and the state of Virginia across the Potomac. The city has beautiful trees that were gifts from other countries – Japanese cherry trees, oriental ginkgoes, locusts, and Asiatic magnolias.

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON D.C.

President George Washington wanted the capital to be located on a site on the Potomac River. In 1790 the delegates agreed with Washington and a young French engineer, Pierre-Charles L'Enfant, was chosen to design the capital city. L'Enfant designed a grand city and planned for over 300 roads. The people could not believe that they needed a city that large and thought that L'Enfant was absurd. L'Enfant had made so many enemies that even George Washington could not convince them of L'Enfant's plans. L'Enfant was fired and a man named Andrew Ellicott took his place. Ellicott completed the city with minimal changes in L'Enfant's original plans.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, the British marched into the city and set Washington, D.C. on fire. A huge rain swept the city and saved many of the buildings from total destruction. The workmen began to rebuild again.

WHITE HOUSE

The President of the United States lives in the White House located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The White House has 132 rooms and 20 bathrooms. More than one and a half million people visit the White House every year. Guided tours take people through special rooms open to the public. On this tour visitors are able to see the ***State Dining Room***, which can seat 140 guests. The ***Red Room*** is decorated with red silk walls and gold trim. The Red Room is used as a sitting room or parlor. The ***Green Room*** has green silk walls and is also used as a parlor. The ***Blue Room*** is oval-shaped. The President uses the Blue Room to greet guests. The ***East Room*** is large, 80 feet (24 meters) long and has an 18 feet (5 meters) foot high ceiling. In this room hangs a famous portrait of George Washington. After dinner parties, people socialize in this room. The White House also has its own bowling alley, swimming pool, and movie theater.

- **Interior Design** – In cooperative learning groups, have the children remodel the State Dining Room, the Red Room, the Green Room, the Blue Room, and the East Room.

CAPITOL BUILDING

The United States Capitol is a large building on sixteen acres of land. Here the Congress meets to discuss and vote on legislation.

The Capitol is like a small city which employes 19,000 people. The Capitol building has its own library, printing office, repair shop, beauty salons, post-office, and first-aid station. The Capitol has 540 rooms - many of them contain sculptures, paintings, and carvings representing important people and events from American history.

MONUMENTS/MEMORIALS

The Lincoln Memorial is a tribute and symbol of freedom. It looks like a Greek temple containing a large statue of Abraham Lincoln. Thirty-six columns circle the monument – the columns represent the thirty-six states that existed at the time of Lincoln's death.

The Washington Monument was originally designed by L'Enfant. This tall marble pillar stands 555 feet 5½ inches (169.29 meters) tall. Visitors can ride to the top in an elevator.

The Jefferson Memorial is a white marble, domed-shaped structure surrounded by 26 columns. Quotations from the Declaration of Independence are inscribed in the memorial.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial design was submitted in a contest by a Yale student named Maya Ying Lin. On a V-shaped black granite wall are inscribed the names of all the service people who died or were missing in action in Vietnam between 1959 and 1975.

- **Sight-seeing** – Take the children on a pictorial journey through Washington, D.C. Let them design a monument for one of their favorite American figures.
- **Creative Writing** – Write a short paragraph about why you are proud of your country.

AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

STATE BOOKLETS

Make a booklet about one of the United States. Include an illustrated page for each of the following:

1. state flower
2. state bird
3. state tree
4. state flag
5. interesting place to visit

PLAN A VACATION

Pretend that you are able to go on a vacation anywhere in the United States. Remember that the United States has mountains, deserts, valleys, lakes, rivers, oceans, countryside, and large cities. On a piece of paper, write down where you are going and make a list of the things that you will need to bring with you.

THE MELTING POT OF THE UNITED STATES

The United States of America is a land that is filled with many rich and diverse cultures. People from all over the world have immigrated to the United States. Cover a bulletin board with a background of solid color. Have the children cut out pictures of people from magazines who represent different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Have the children fill the bulletin board with all these people. Let the children think up a caption for the bulletin board.

STEVEN FOSTER

Steven Foster was a well-known American songwriter who wrote music based on American traditions. He lived from 1826-1864. Some of his most popular songs are "Swanee River," "Jeanie With The Light Brown Hair," "Camptown Races," and "Oh! Susanna." Many of his songs focused on the lives of the slaves in the southern United States. Teach the children in your class one or more of these songs.

ART OF NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS

Although there is great diversity among the traditional cultures of Native American Indians, there are similarities in the purpose of their art. Art was used in religious ceremonies and was representative of the beliefs in a culture.

Totem poles are found in villages along the ***Northwest coast***. They often represent the lineage of the people who created them.

Walrus ivory, bone, and antlers were used for carvings in the ***arctic*** areas. Small animal carvings were common and believed to be hunting charms. (Make small play dough sculptures.)

Pottery in the ***Southwest*** is a dominant art form. Figurative paintings and line patterns are common designs. The pueblos also created sand painting. (Draw a picture of a pot and decorate with line patterns.)

The Indians in the ***Plains*** painted with dyed porcupine quills on animal hides. Some of the paintings represented mystical visions or scenes of historical events. The art of Native American Indians is beautiful and should to be treasured in American culture and history. (Using scrap fabric and fabric paints to design a picture which shows an event.)

TALL TALES OF AMERICAN HEROES

A tall tale is a story that is told from one generation to another. Each time the story is told, it becomes a little more exaggerated. Characters from American folklore, such as Pecos Bill, and Paul Bunyan & Babe the Blue Ox have become American tall tales. Read some of these stories to your class. As a class, write your own tall tale.

SQUARE DANCING

Square-dancing is a type of American folk dance which dates back hundreds of years. The dance is usually danced by four couples. They dance as they listen to directions from the caller. Square dancing is performed throughout the United States, but is the most popular in the West. Most Physical education teachers teach a unit on square dancing during the year. Ask your physical education teacher to help you provide a square dancing experience for your students.

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Multicultural Mini-Units provides the classroom teacher with enough information and activities to teach children about twenty different places in our world.

Through experimental activities the children will be able to develop an understanding of cultures that are different from their own. They will learn about different holiday customs, cultural traditions, art, music, and the geographical locations that they are studying.

The following is a listing of the countries and continents included:

Africa
Australia
Brazil
Canada
China
England
France
Germany
Greece
India
Israel
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Netherlands
Russia
Spain
Sweden
Thailand
United States

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